

# C.O.W.L.™



## Volume 2 The Greater Good



Kyle Higgins

Alec Siegel

Rod Reis













# The Greater Good

KYLE HIGGINS

ALEC SIEGEL

STORY

ROD REIS

ART

TROY PETERI

LETTERS

TREVOR MCCARTHY & ROD REIS

COVERS

RICH BLOOM

DESIGN

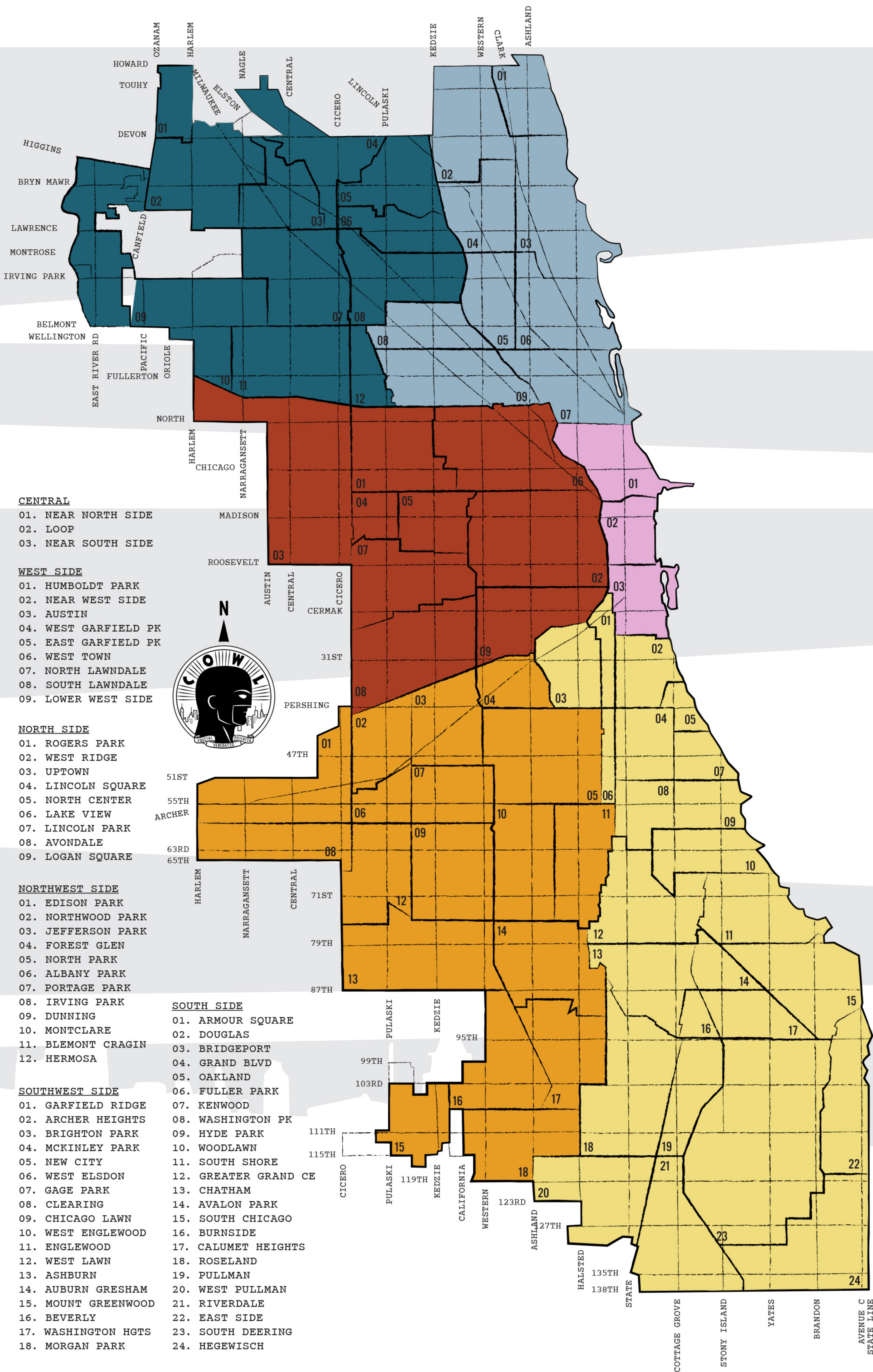
LOGO BY ERIC WIGHT

**IMAGE COMICS, INC.**  
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer  
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer  
Todd McFarlane – President  
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer  
Jim Valentino – Vice-President  
Eric Stephenson – Publisher  
Corey Murphy – Director of Sales  
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales  
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing  
Emily Miller – Director of Operations  
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager  
Sarah Mello – Accounts Manager  
Drew Gill – Art Director  
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager  
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager  
Randy Okamura – Marketing Production Designer  
David Brothers – Branding Manager  
Ally Power – Content Manager  
Addison Duke – Production Artist  
Vincent Kucina – Production Artist  
Sasha Head – Production Artist  
Tricia Ramos – Production Artist  
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant  
Chloe Ramos-Peterson – Administrative Assistant  
**IMAGECOMICS.COM**

C.O.W.L. VOL. 2: THE GREATER GOOD. August 2015. Copyright © 2015 Kyle Higgins & Alec Siegel. All rights reserved. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Originally published in single magazine form as C.O.W.L. #7-11, by Image Comics. "C.O.W.L.," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Kyle Higgins & Alec Siegel, unless otherwise noted. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Kyle Higgins & Alec Siegel or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION. For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com.







Geoffrey Warner (The Grey Raven)

C.O.W.L. Chief

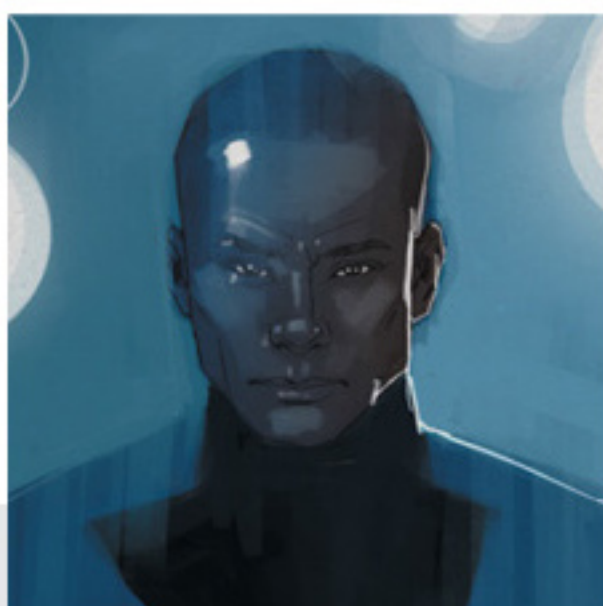
Sharpshooter, Master Strategist, Unpowered



Reginald Davis (Blaze)

Deputy C.O.W.L. Chief/Head of Tactical

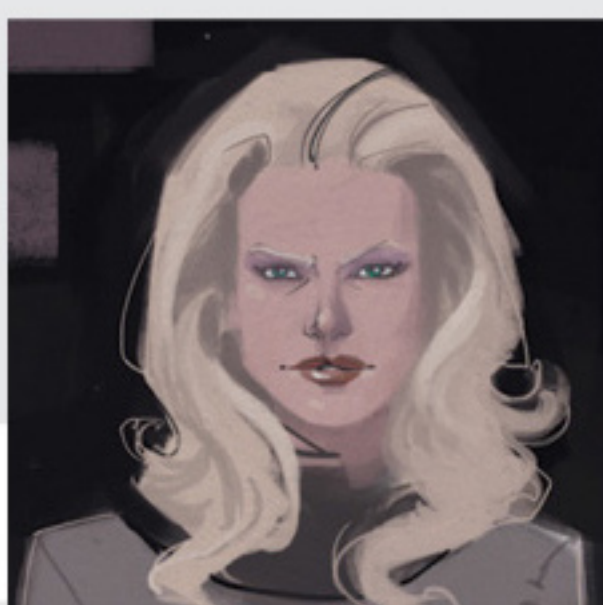
Zero-Point Energy Gauntlet



Kathryn Mitchell (Radia)

Tactical Division

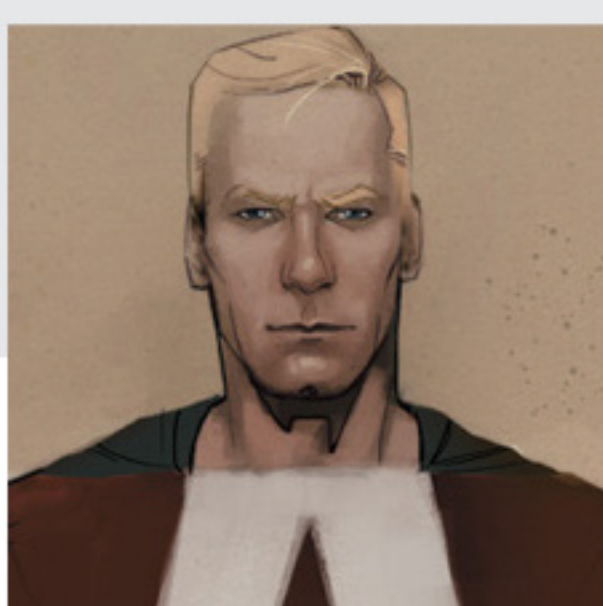
Telekinesis



Tom Hayden (Arclight)

Tactical Division

Flight, Focused Energy Bursts



John Pierce

Investigations

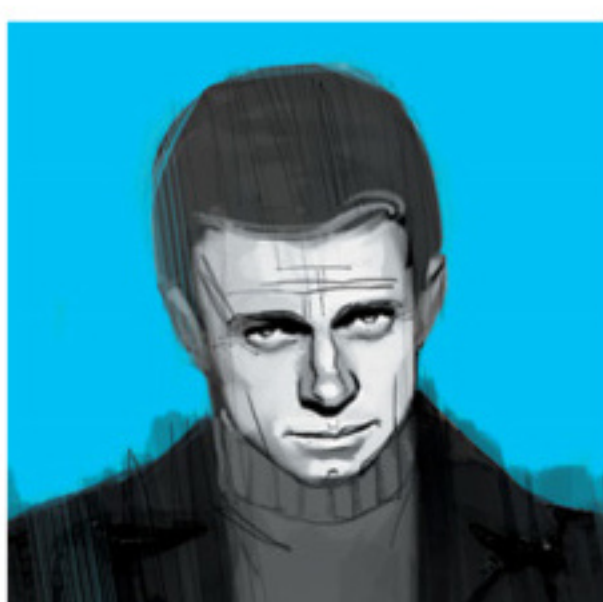
Detective, Unpowered



Grant Marlow

Patrol Division – West Side

Sharpshooter, Unpowered



Karl Samoski (Eclipse)

Patrol Division – West Side

Anti-Kinetics, Power Disruption



PATROL DISTRICTS

CENTRAL

NORTH

NORTHWEST

SOUTH

SOUTHWEST

WEST SIDE



CHICAGO, 1962



# Introduction

You hold in your hands the final collection (for now, I hope) of *C.O.W.L.* and, damn, if it isn't extremely unsatisfying and 100% what it needs to be. That unsatisfied feeling is all about the complex, sleazy, backstabbing, hypocritical world of behind-the-scenes politics. You see, just like in real life, the games never end, the machinations get more labyrinthine and no one—even when they get what they think they want—has a truly happy ending. No riding off into the sunset. No reuniting atop the Empire State Building. No passionate kisses and declarations of love in the rain. Life just goes on and we have to deal with it.

And that is why I fucking LOVE *C.O.W.L.*

The team behind the book has been firing on all cylinders since the first panel of the first page of the first issue and never once let up. They tell their story with truth and reality and no fear of expectation. And they are to be commended.

The pull-no-punches look behind the curtain of Chicago politics crosses genre lines effortlessly. In Hollywood, I'd say it's *The Wire* meets *Hoffa* meets *The Avengers* meets *Mad Men*. (That's my superpower: I'm *Reductive Man*.) But those comparisons seem weak when one actually dives into the vivid, rotting-from-the-inside world Kyle, Alec, and Rod have created. This is a wholly original series evocative of many things, but with its own distinct flavor (and deliciously nasty aftertaste).

There are lots of comics out there that try the "what if super heroes existed in the real world?" concept, but none have felt quite so real since

*Watchmen*. Maybe even more so. You see—SPOILER ALERT—in Moore and Gibbons' masterwork, the "costumes" are behind it all, but in *C.O.W.L.*'s '60s era Chicago, true power doesn't come from flying or eye beams or super strength. It's the players behind-the-scenes—amoral, wealth-obsessed, but decidedly flesh-and-blood men—who move demigods like so many chess pieces. And, as the Presidential election season begins again, we see the only thing different from the world of *C.O.W.L.* and our very own is a few capes. (And *C.O.W.L.* has much better art direction than we do).

So, roll up your sleeves and dig into the world of *C.O.W.L.* It's a dirty place, but, goddamn, if i don't love to wallow in it.

**Marc Andreyko**  
Los Angeles, 2015

*Marc Andreyko is the New York Times bestselling, Harvey and Eisner nominated writer behind such books as Torso (w/ Brian Bendis), Manhunter, The Illegimates (w/ Taran Killam), and the smash hit Wonder Woman '77, among his many credits. He lives in Los Angeles with his books, Blu-Rays, and his awesome dog, Frederick.*











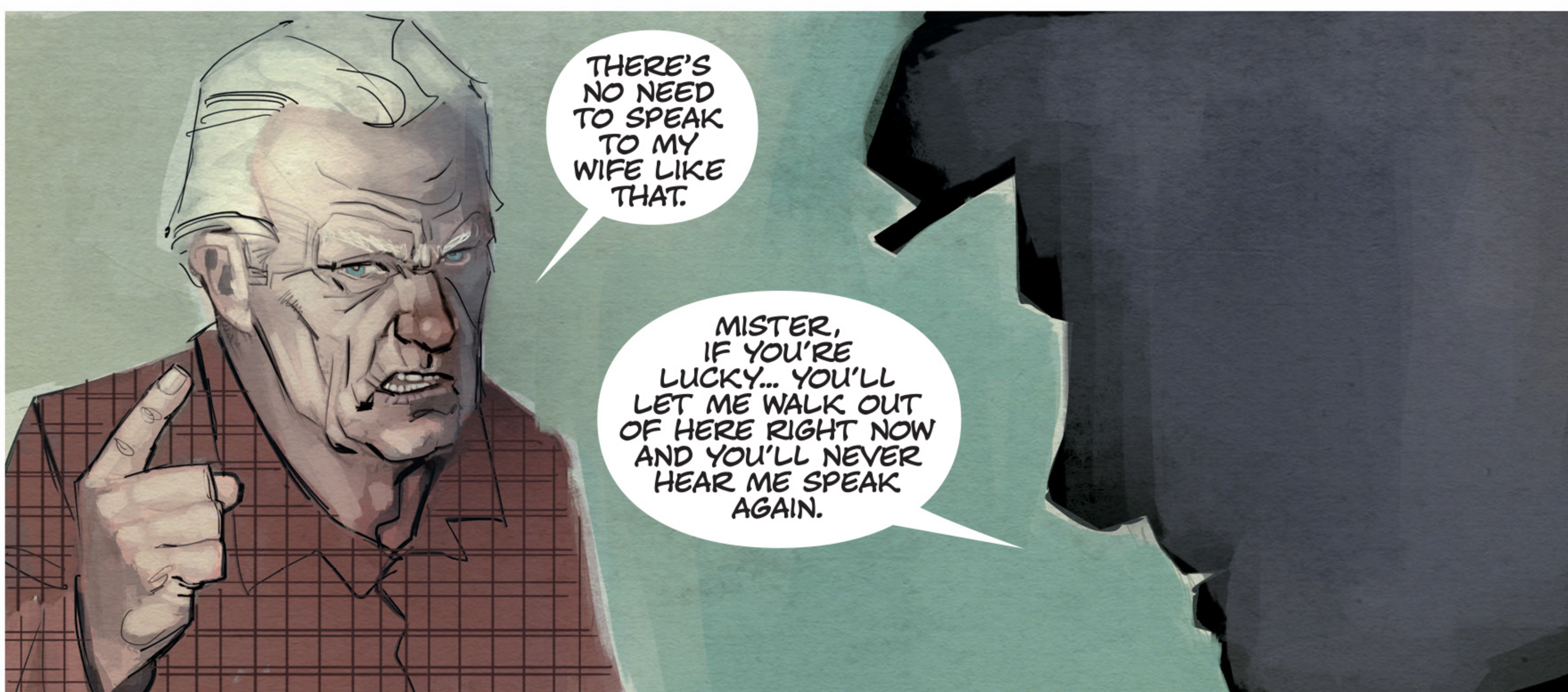
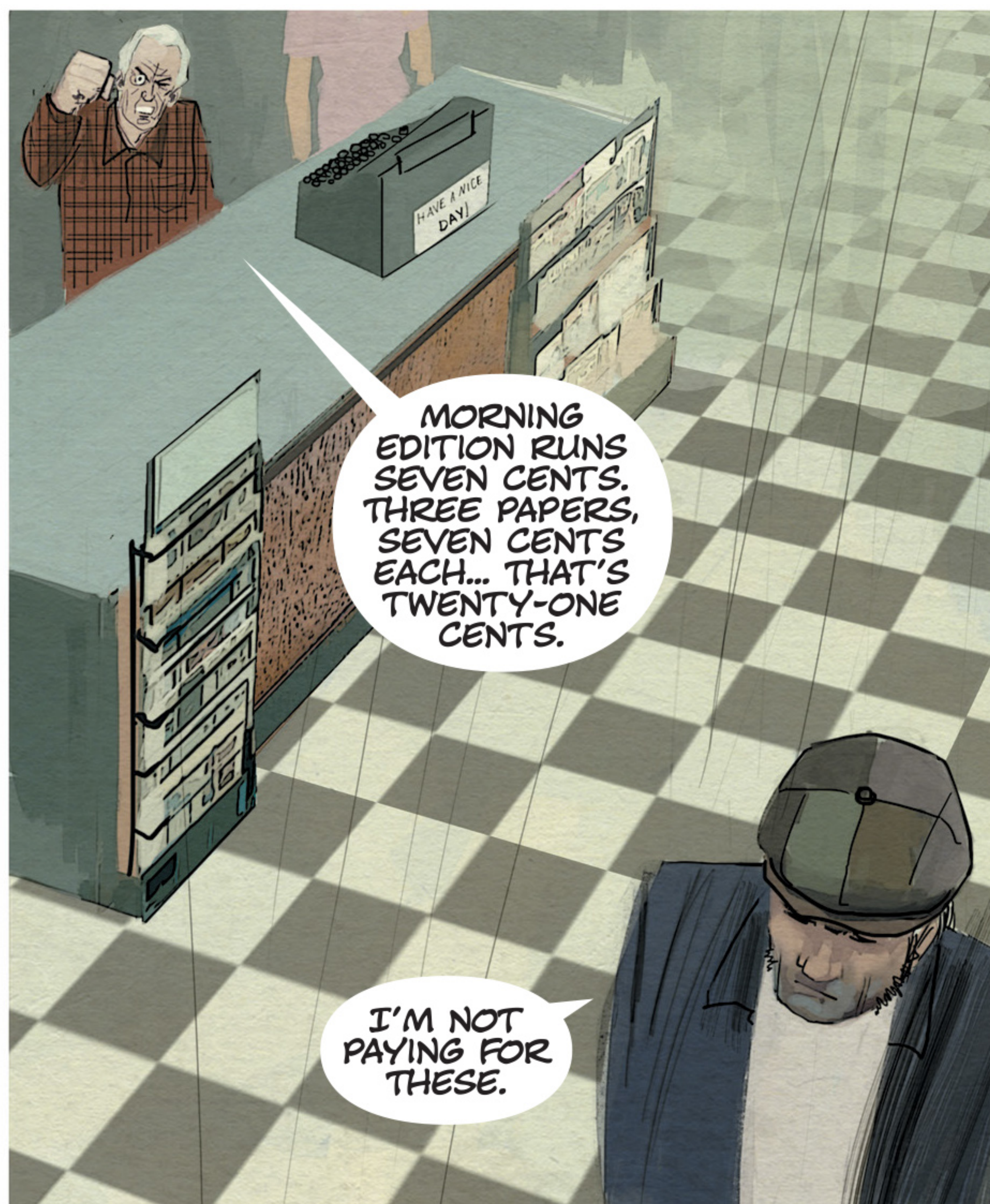
NO SAFETY  
KNOW ON



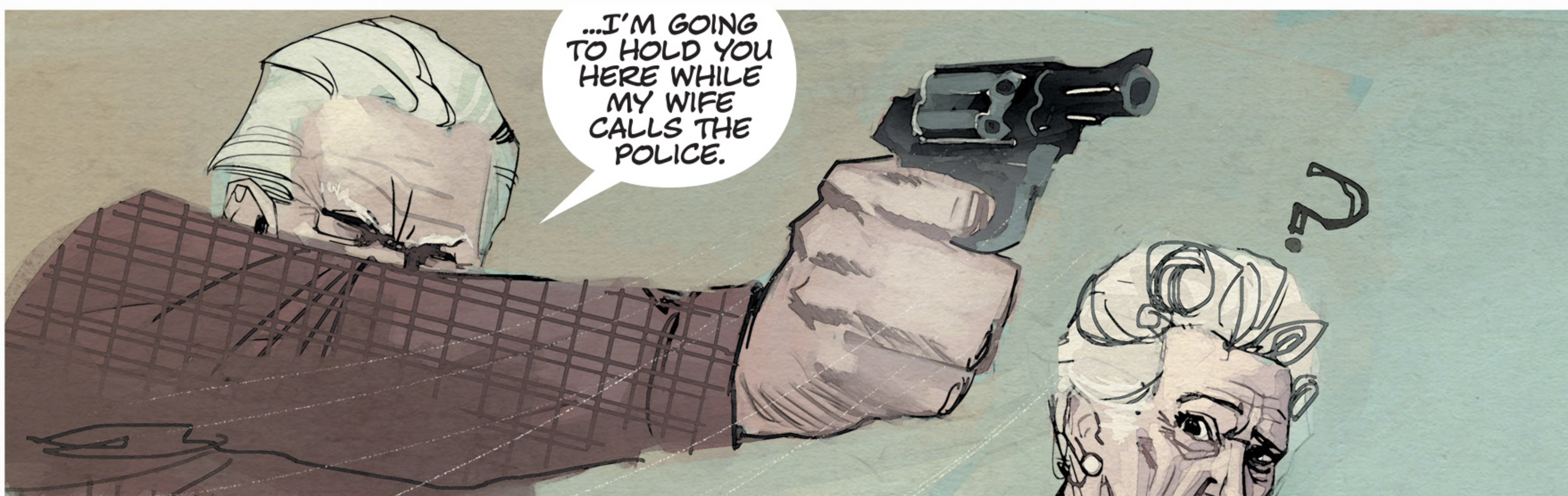
WEST 05 - EAST GARFIELD PARK























# CHAPTER I

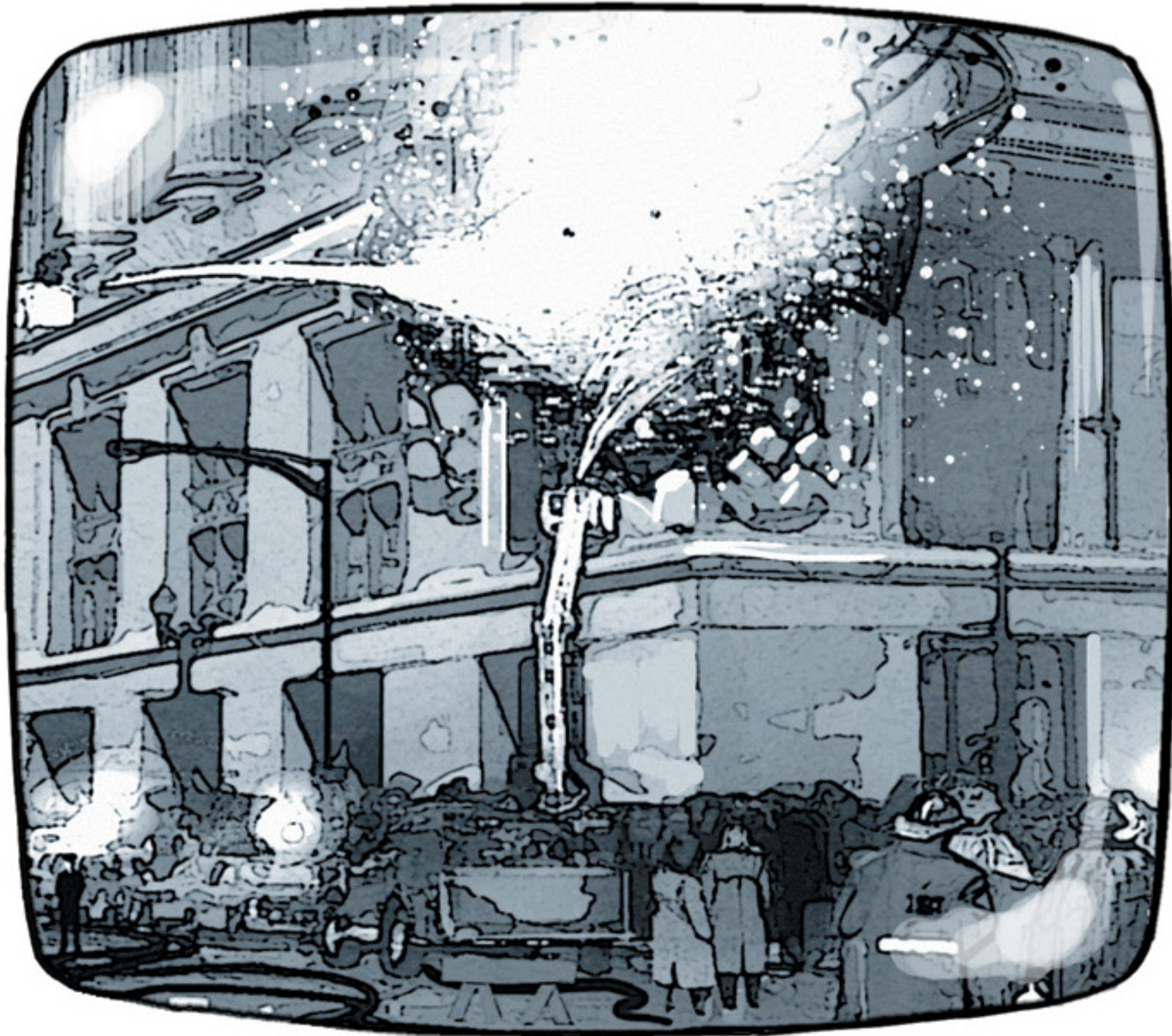
At the Brink



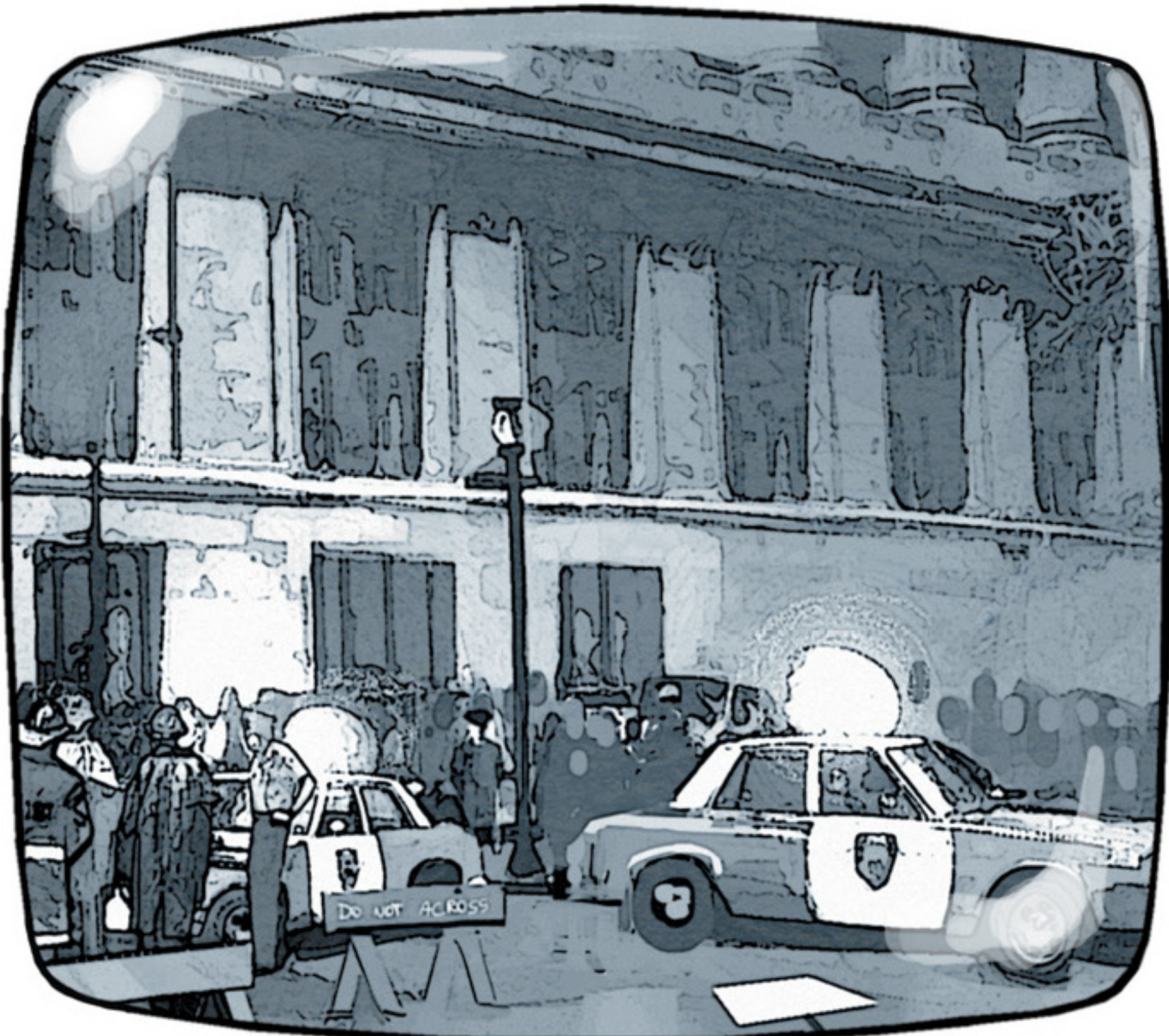
EIGHT HOURS AGO...



TO THIS POINT, BOTH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND C.O.W.L. HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE FIRING TWO NIGHTS AGO, CITING ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS.



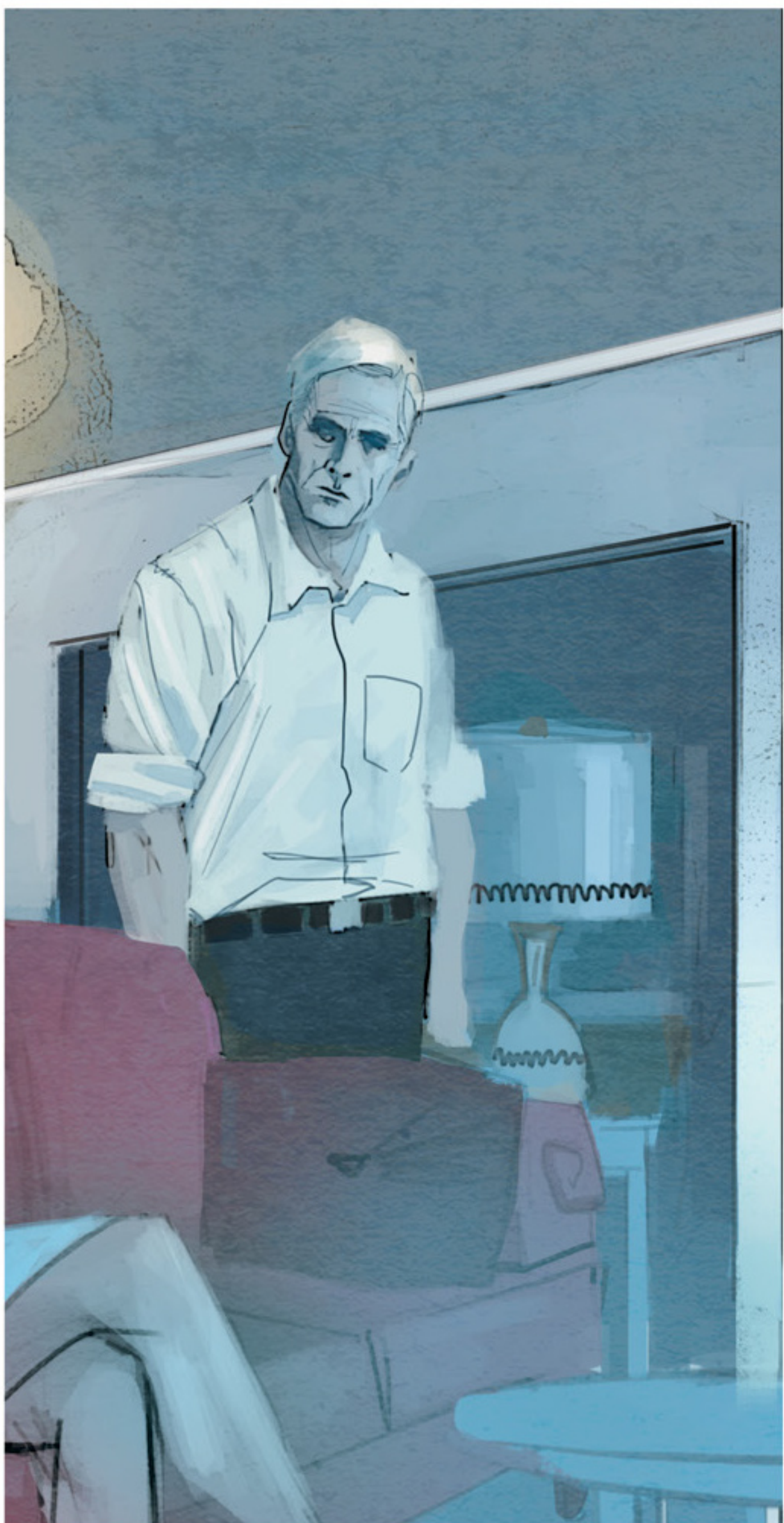
AS YOU CAN SEE HERE, THE DAMAGE TO CITY HALL WAS ISOLATED TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER, WHICH WAS UNOCCUPIED DURING THE HOURS OF THE VIOLENCE.



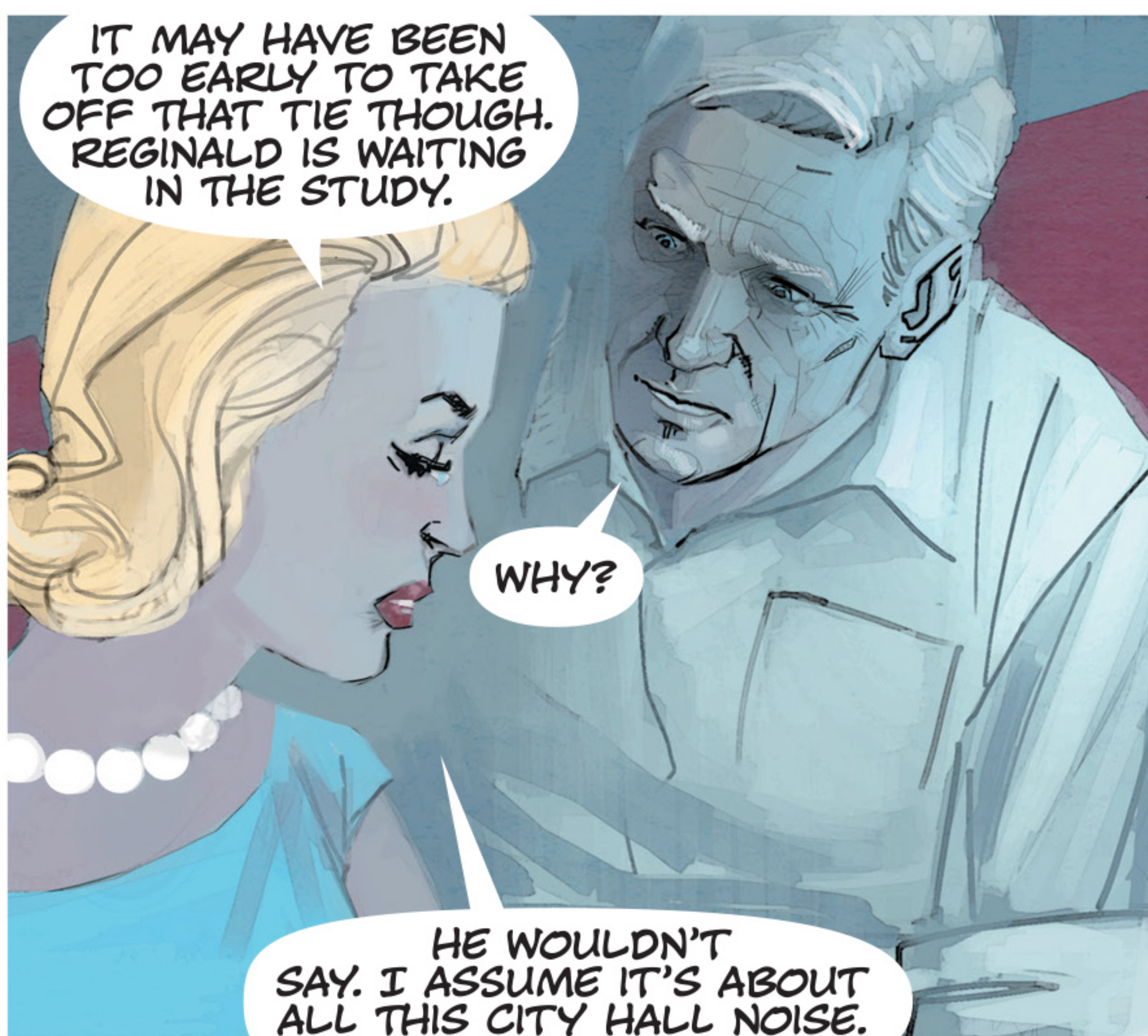
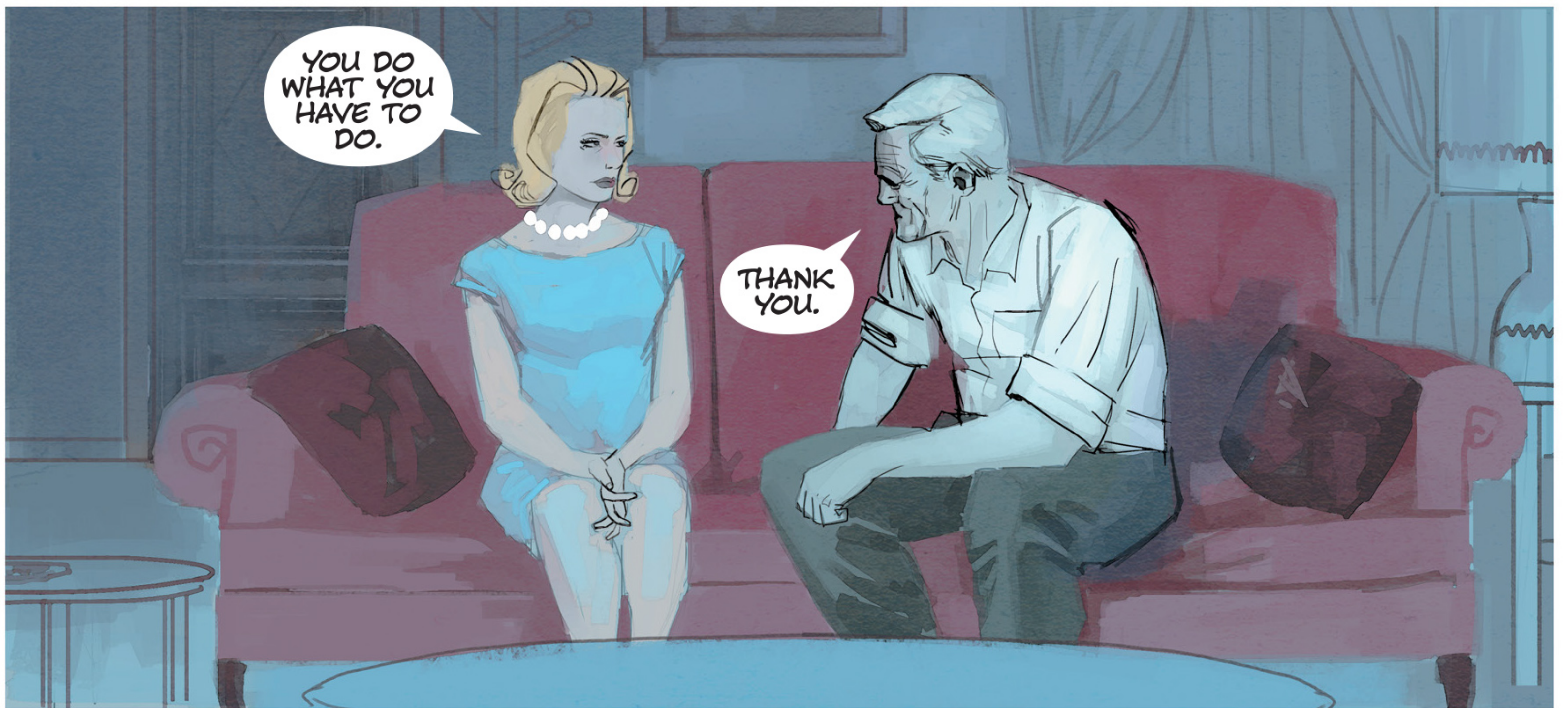
SOURCES WITHIN C.O.W.L. HAVE TOLD US THAT WARNER AND THE MAYOR HAVE NOT SPOKEN SINCE WARNER LED THE UNION TO STRIKE.



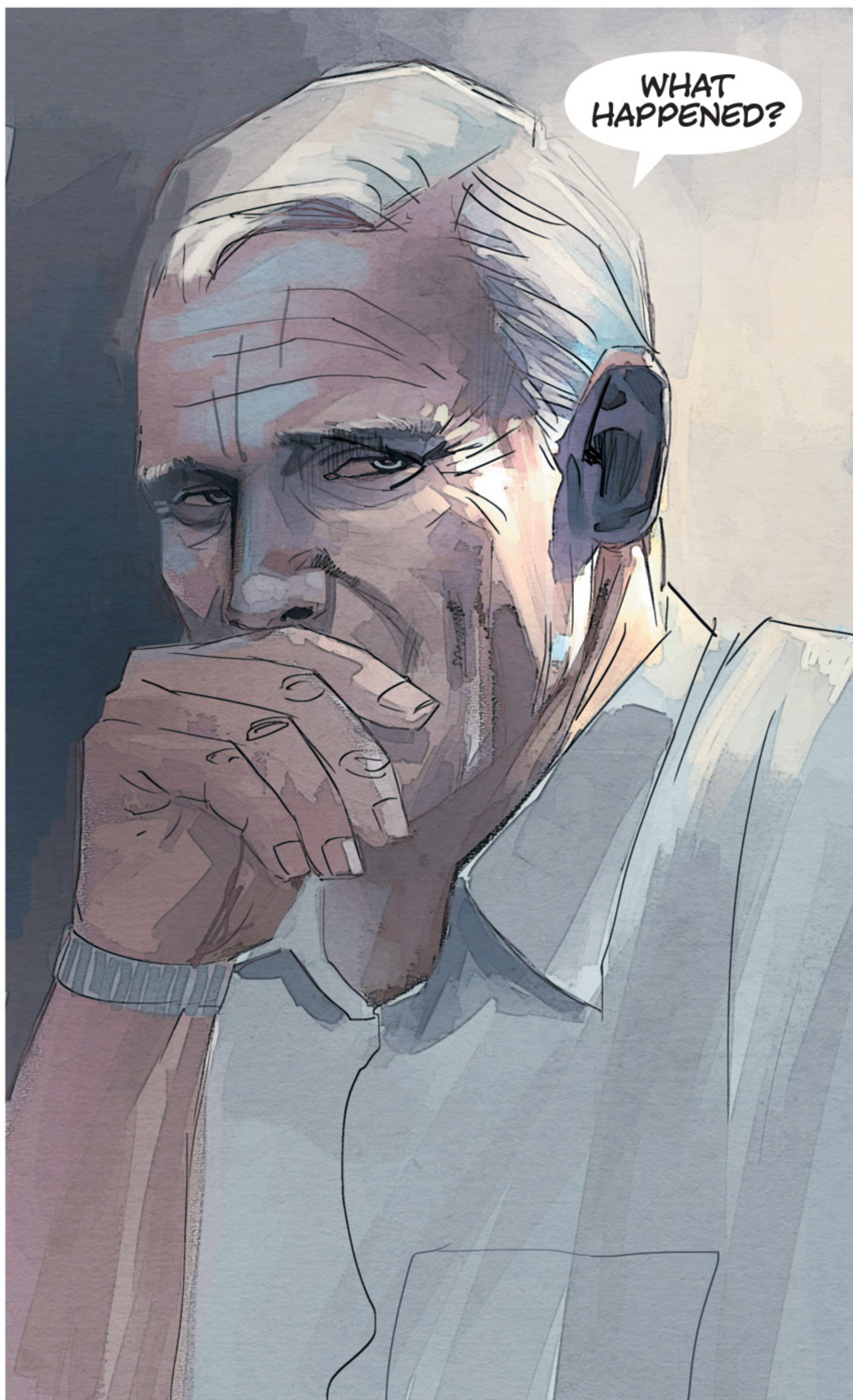
FAR BE IT FROM THIS STATION TO SPECULATE, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT CURRENT EVENTS WILL DO ANYTHING TO THAW THE TWO LEADERS' INCREASINGLY ICY RELATIONSHIP.







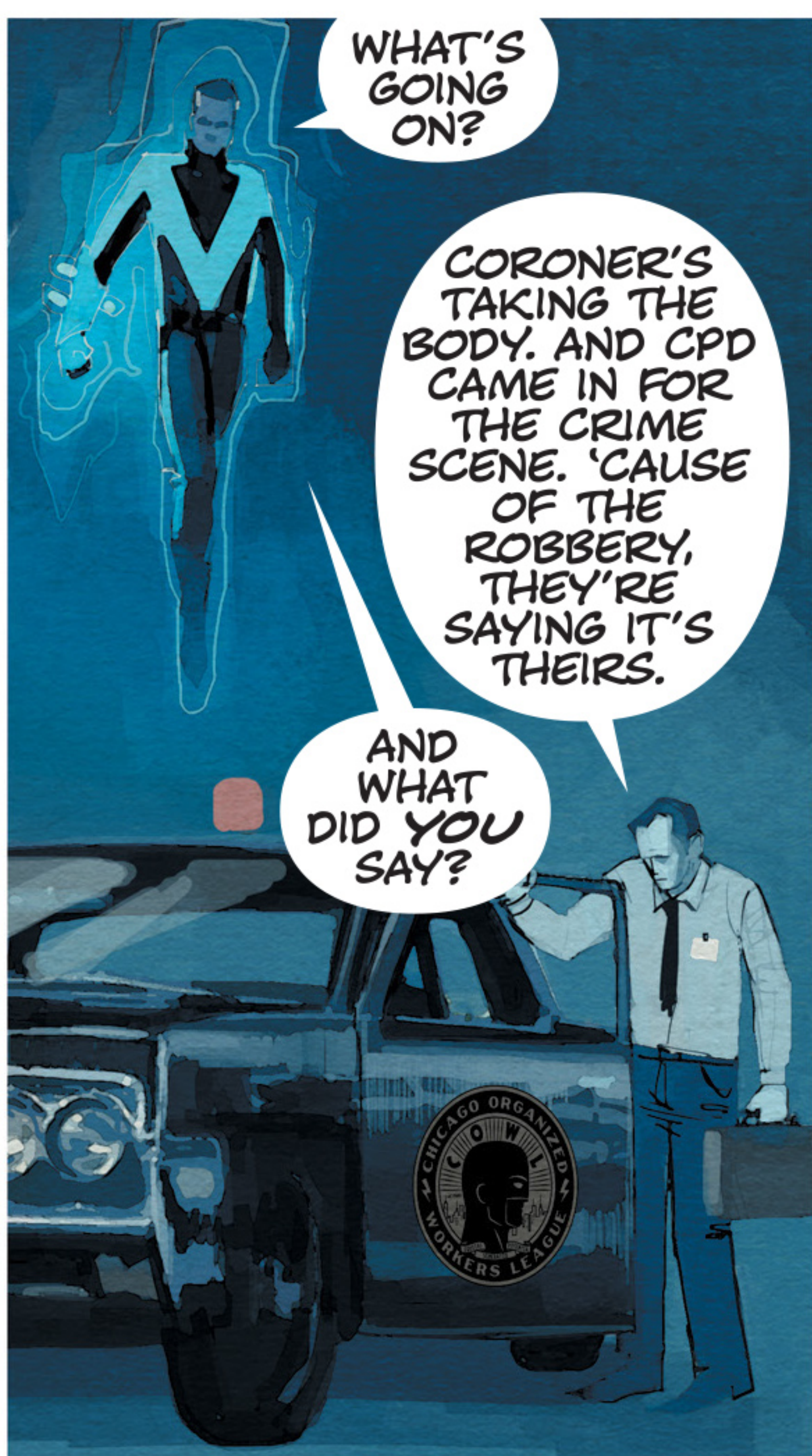
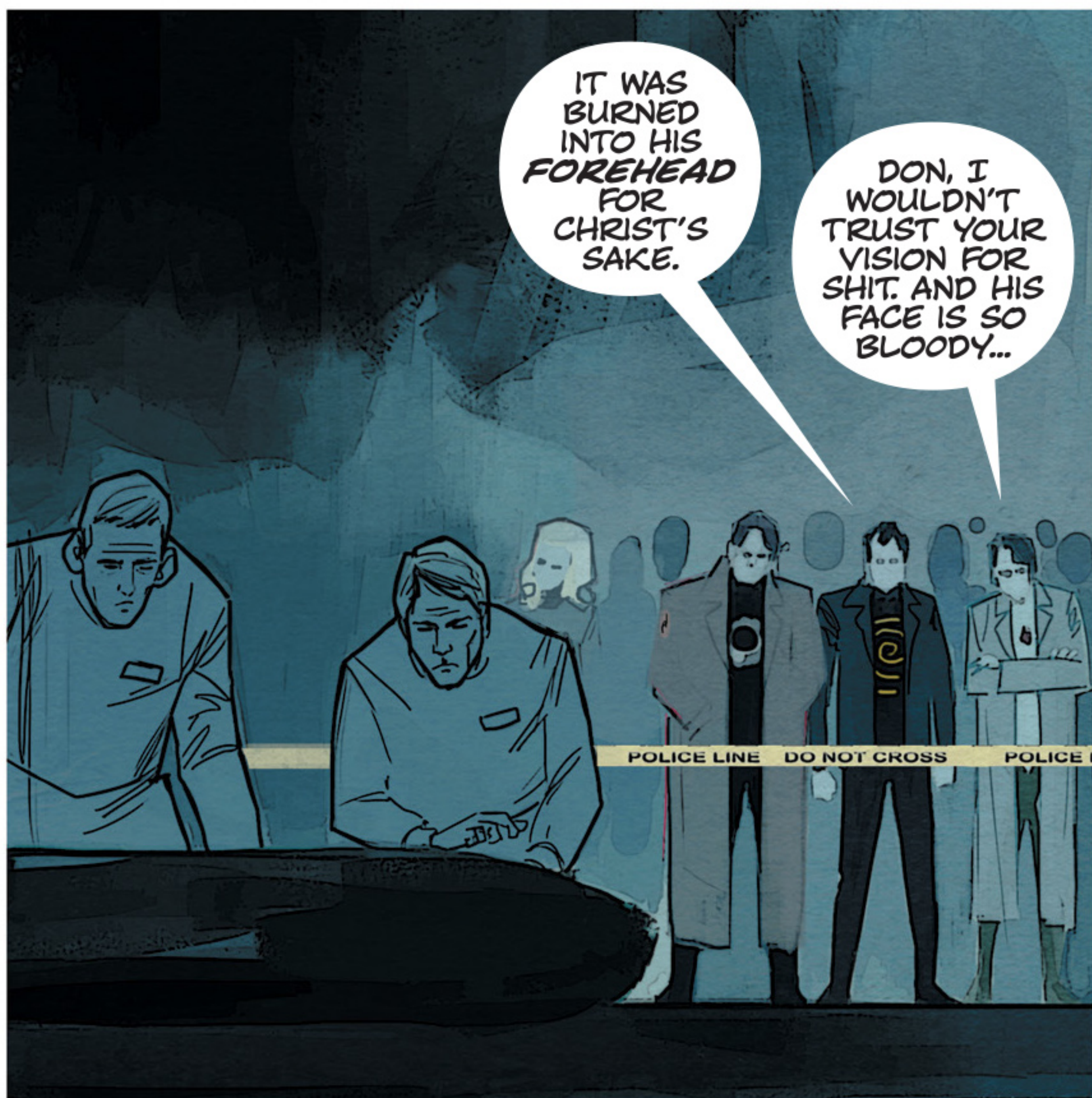








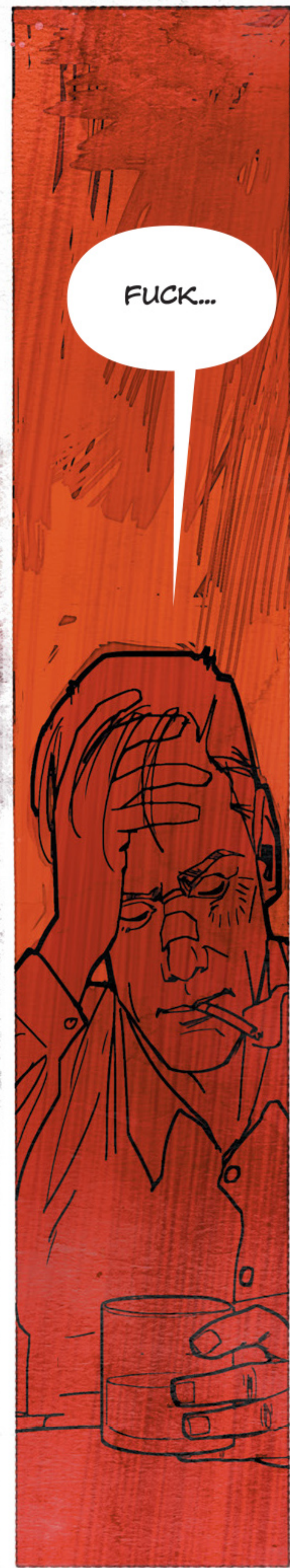




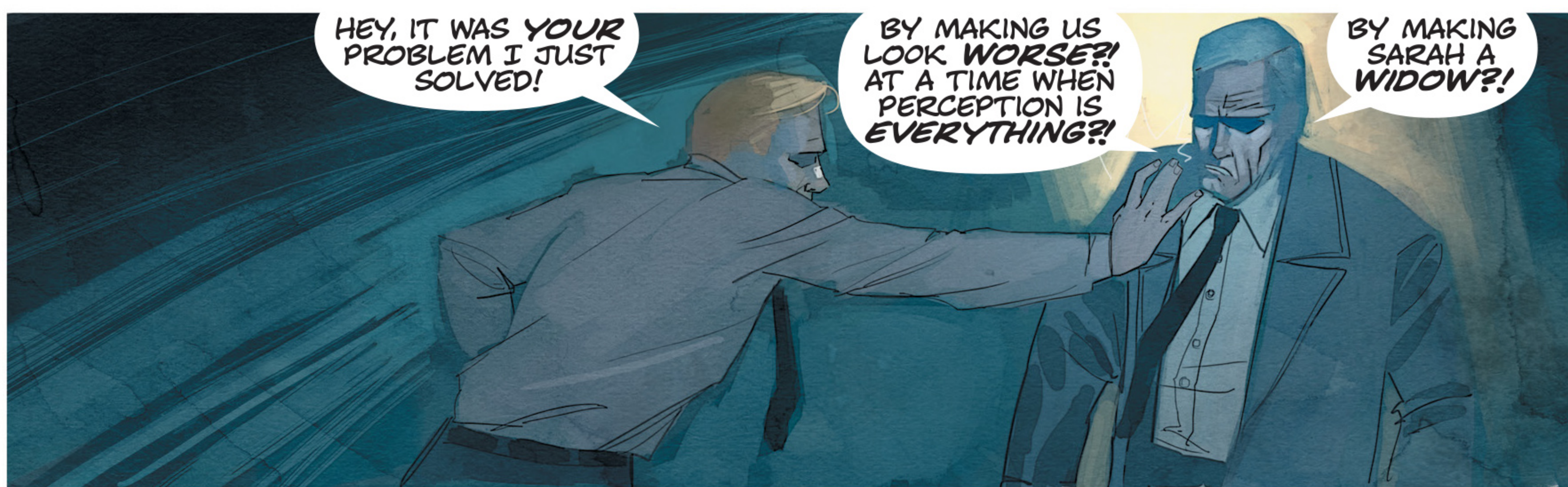








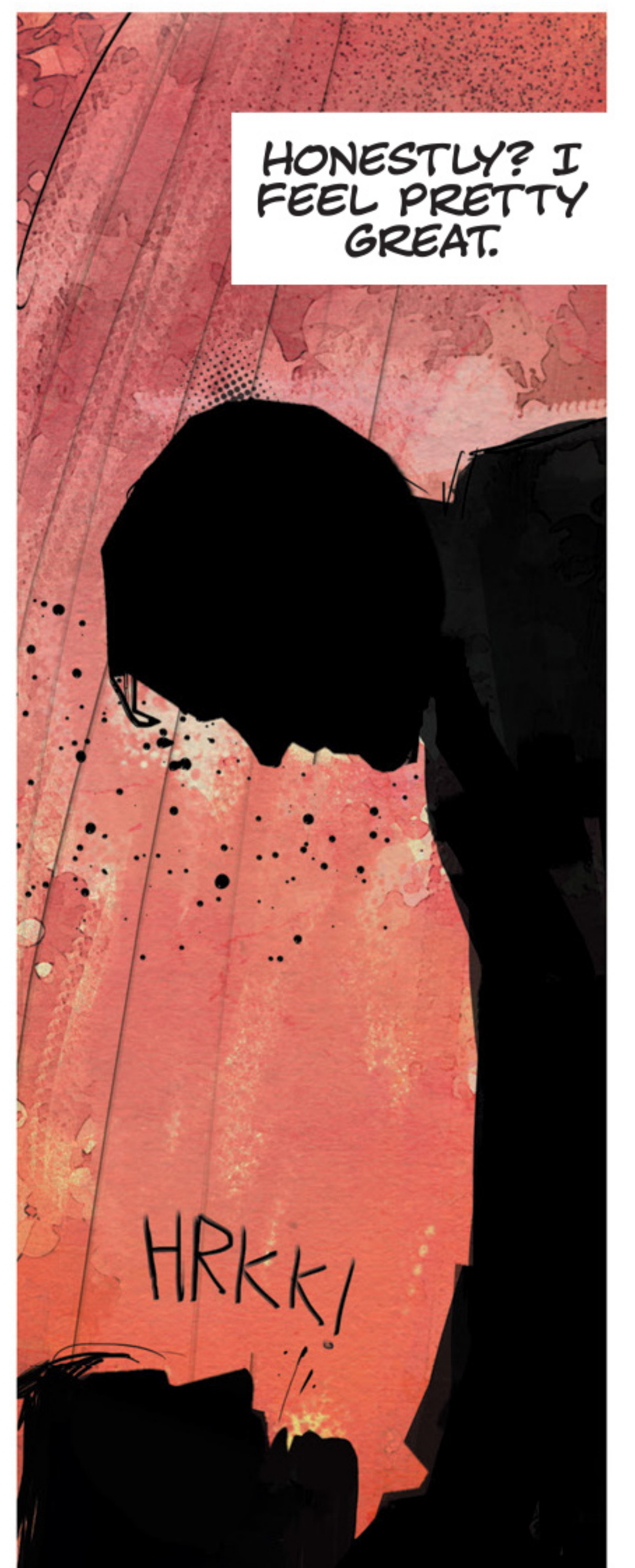
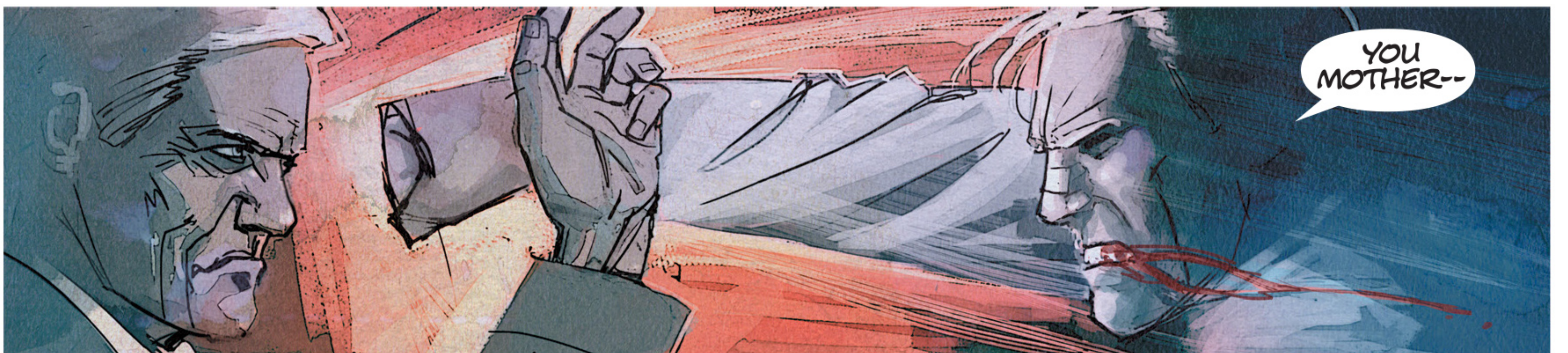














WEST 02 - NEAR WEST SIDE

I TOOK THE WORST THAT SON OF A BITCH HAD TO THROW, AND I STILL GOT HIM.

Cook County Hospital

I JUST... I FEEL LIKE MAYBE I'VE BEEN MAKING EXCUSES FOR TOO LONG. HELL, LOOK AT GEOFFREY WARNER HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY POWERS AND LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS HE'S DONE.

THAT'S GREAT, GRANT. I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.

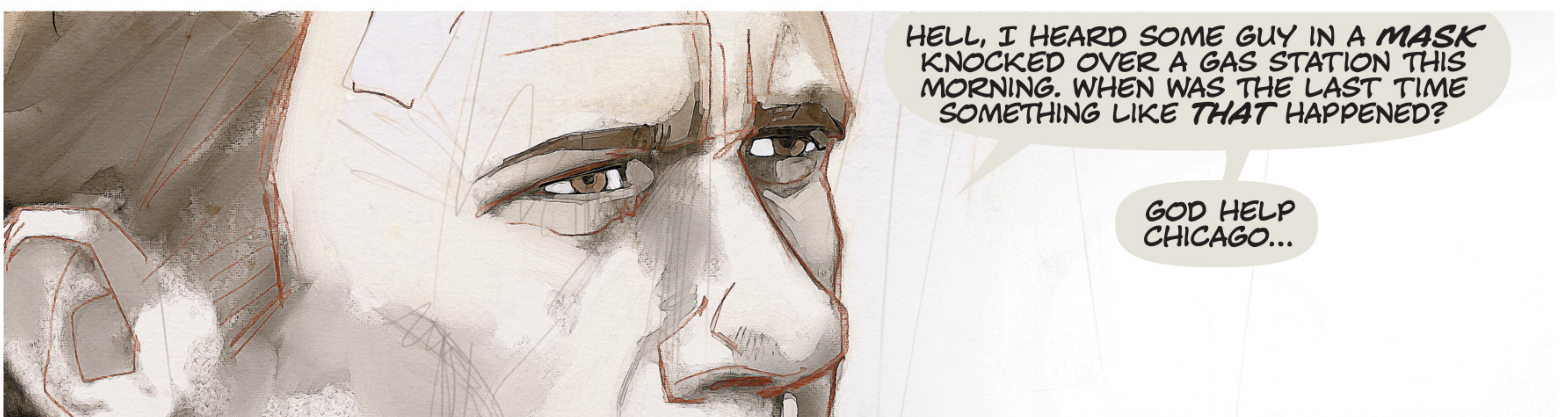
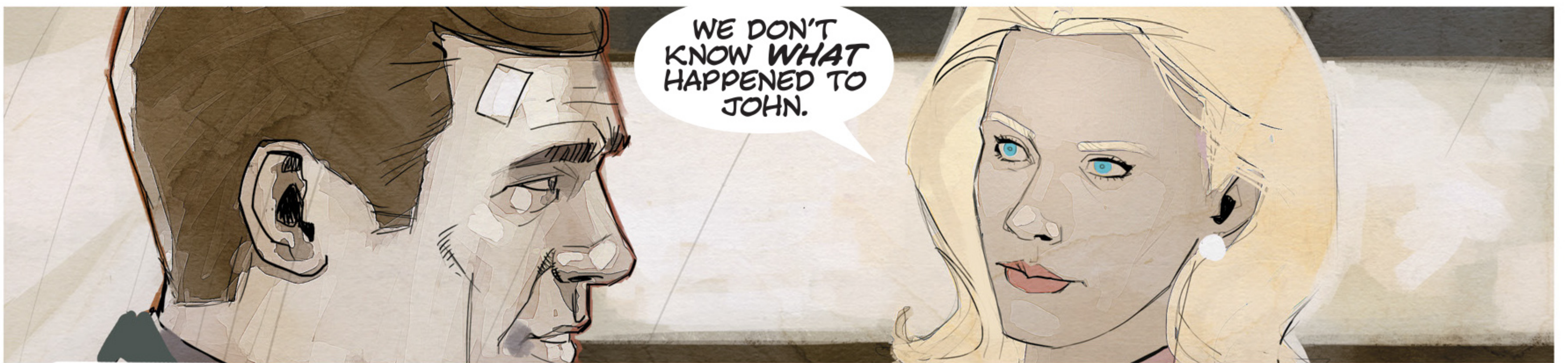
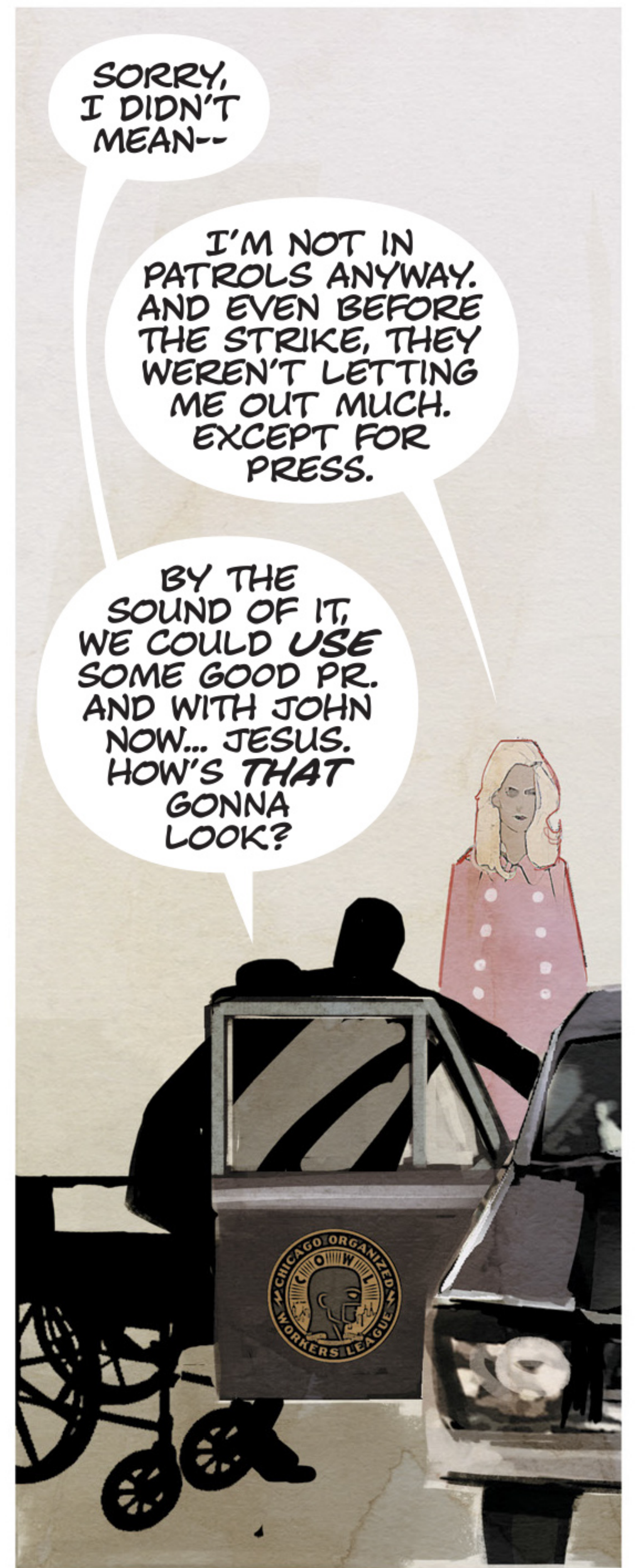
I'M SERIOUS, KARL. THIS IS A NEW BEGINNING. AS SOON AS THE STRIKE WRAPS, I'M READY TO WORK. TRY TO MOVE ON TO BETTER THINGS IN C.O.W.L.

TWENTY MINUTES WITHOUT A TUBE IN YOUR DICK AND YOU'RE ALREADY TOO GOOD FOR ME, HUH?

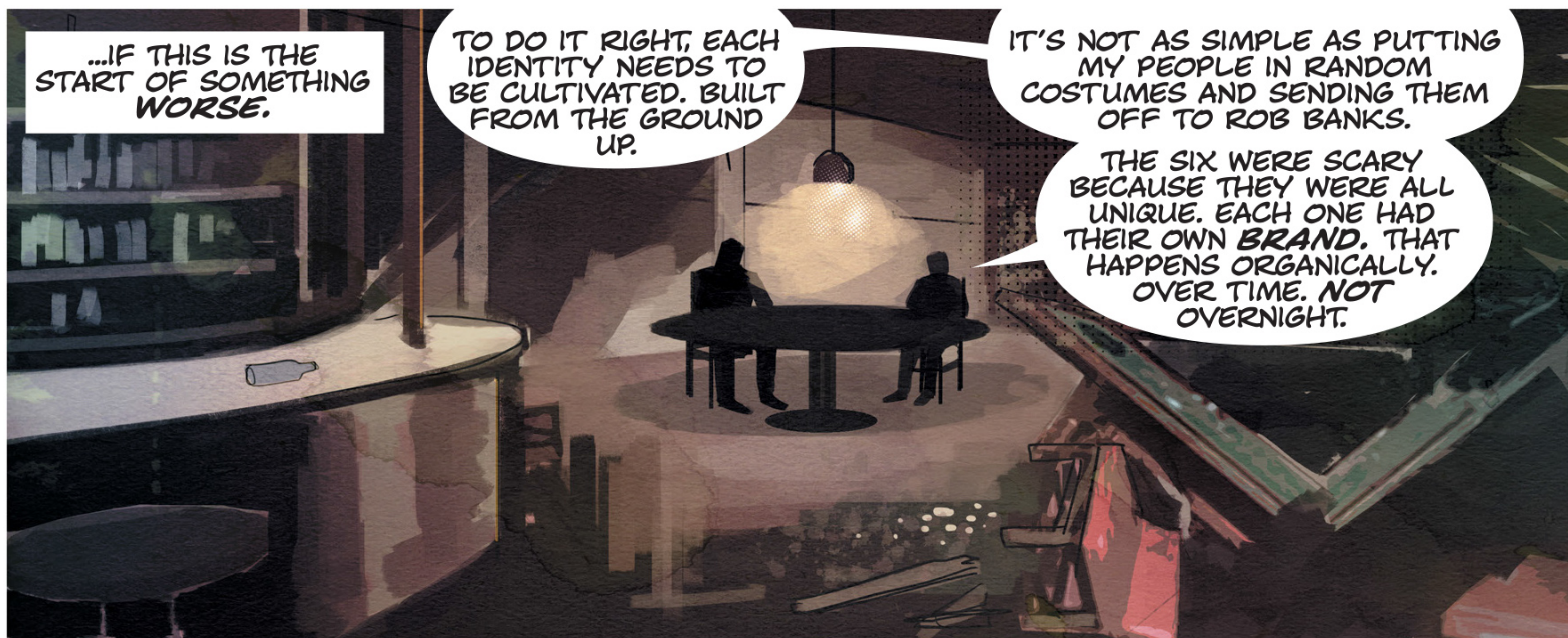
SORRY.

YEAH, WELL, I MAY HAVE TO FIND A NEW PARTNER ANYWAY. LOOKS LIKE YOU REPLACED ME. AND WITH A PRETTIER MODEL, TOO.









...IF THIS IS THE  
START OF SOMETHING  
WORSE.

TO DO IT RIGHT, EACH  
IDENTITY NEEDS TO  
BE CULTIVATED. BUILT  
FROM THE GROUND  
UP.

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS PUTTING  
MY PEOPLE IN RANDOM  
COSTUMES AND SENDING THEM  
OFF TO ROB BANKS.

THE SIX WERE SCARY  
BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL  
UNIQUE. EACH ONE HAD  
THEIR OWN **BRAND**. THAT  
HAPPENS ORGANICALLY.  
OVER TIME. **NOT**  
OVERNIGHT.

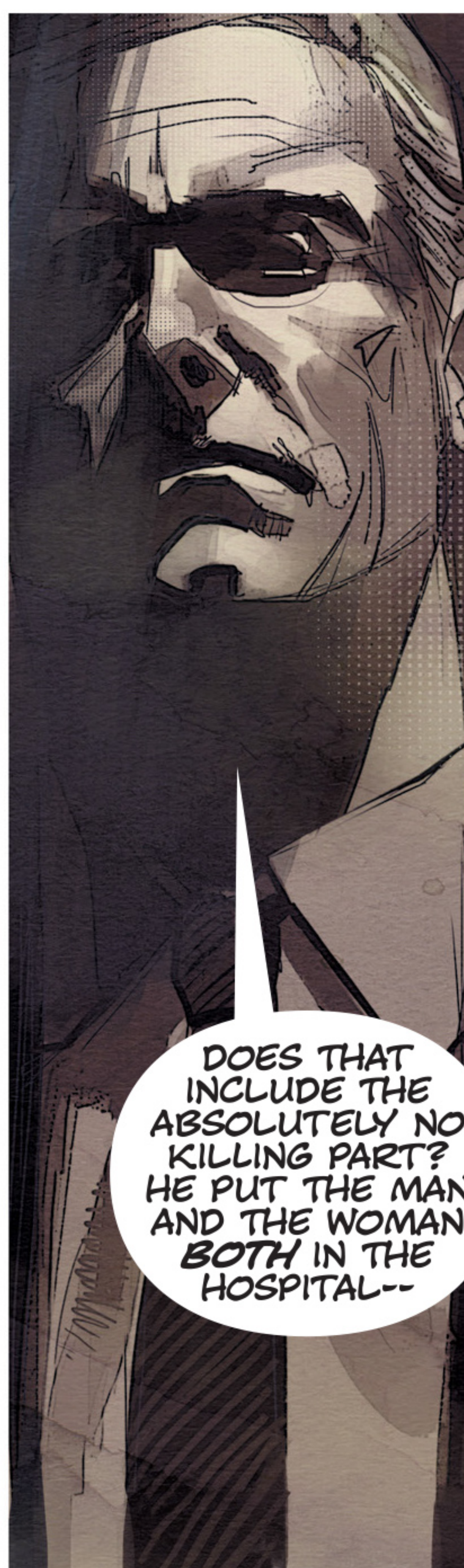


AND NOT  
WHEN YOUR  
MAN FORGETS  
TO WEAR HIS  
**MASK**,  
CAMDEN.



JUST  
GROWING PAINS.  
I'VE ALREADY  
SPOKEN TO  
PATRICK. IT  
WON'T HAPPEN  
AGAIN.

HE'S  
CLEAR ON HIS  
MISTAKE.



DOES THAT  
INCLUDE THE  
ABSOLUTELY NO  
KILLING PART?  
HE PUT THE MAN  
AND THE WOMAN  
**BOTH** IN THE  
HOSPITAL--



--AND  
THEY'LL BOTH  
**LIVE**.  
WORRY ABOUT  
YOUR OWN  
PEOPLE,  
GEOFFREY.  
LIKE THE TWO  
WHO TRASHED  
**THIS** PLACE. THE  
FAT ONE AND  
THE GIRL.

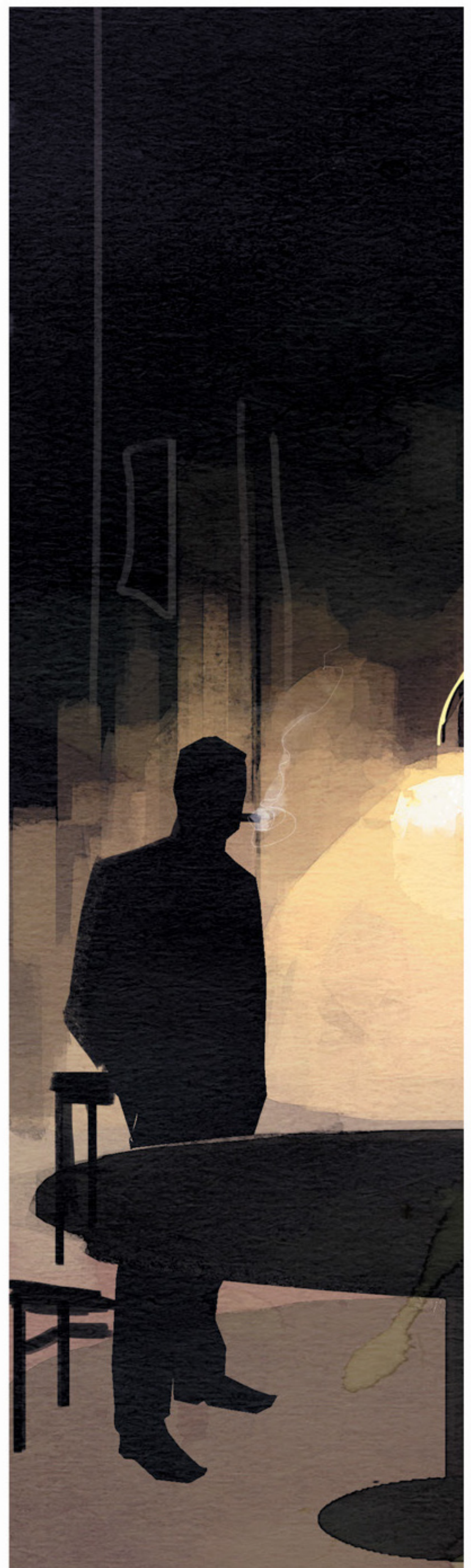


I SAID I'LL  
TAKE CARE OF  
THEM.

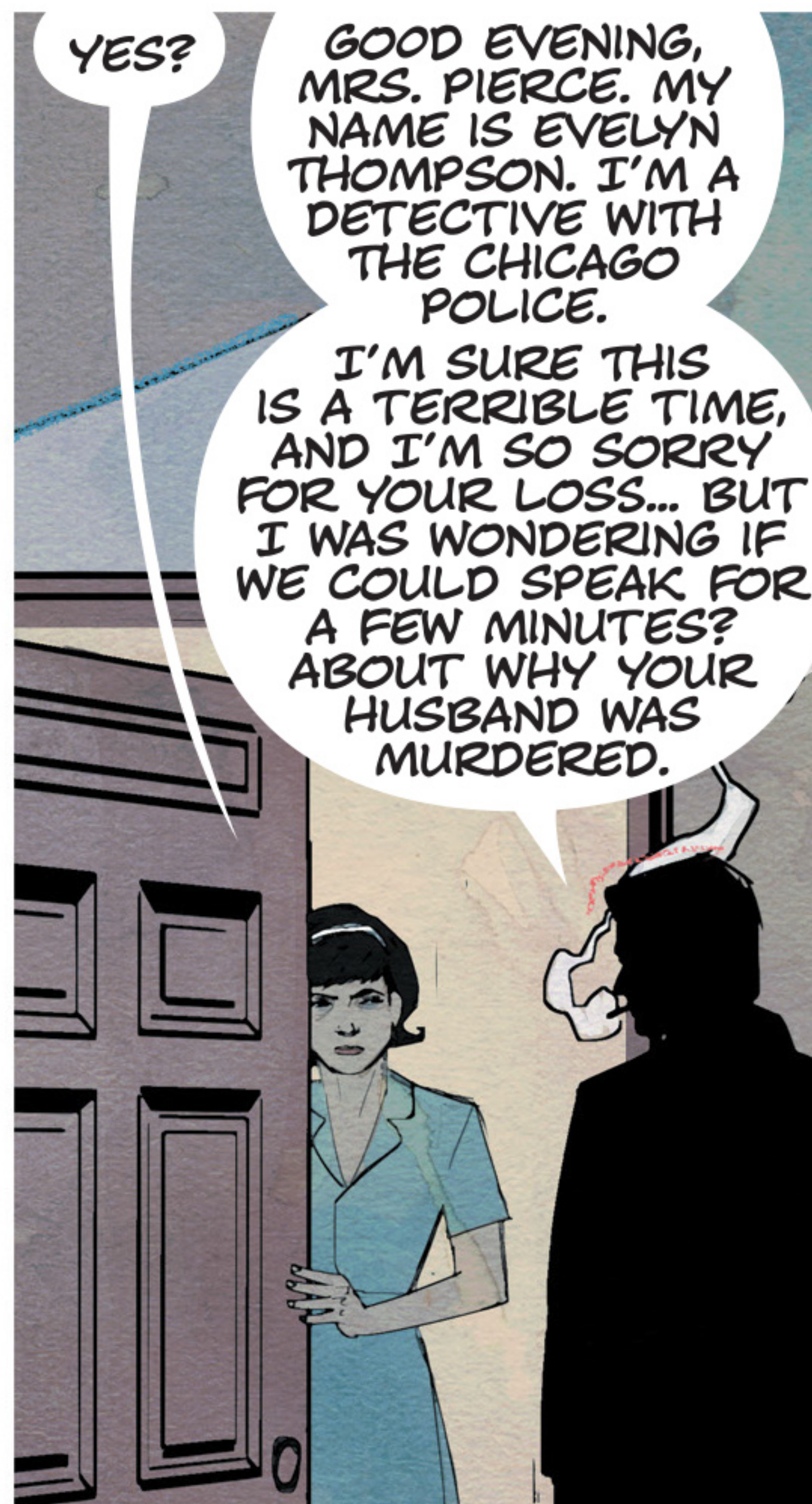
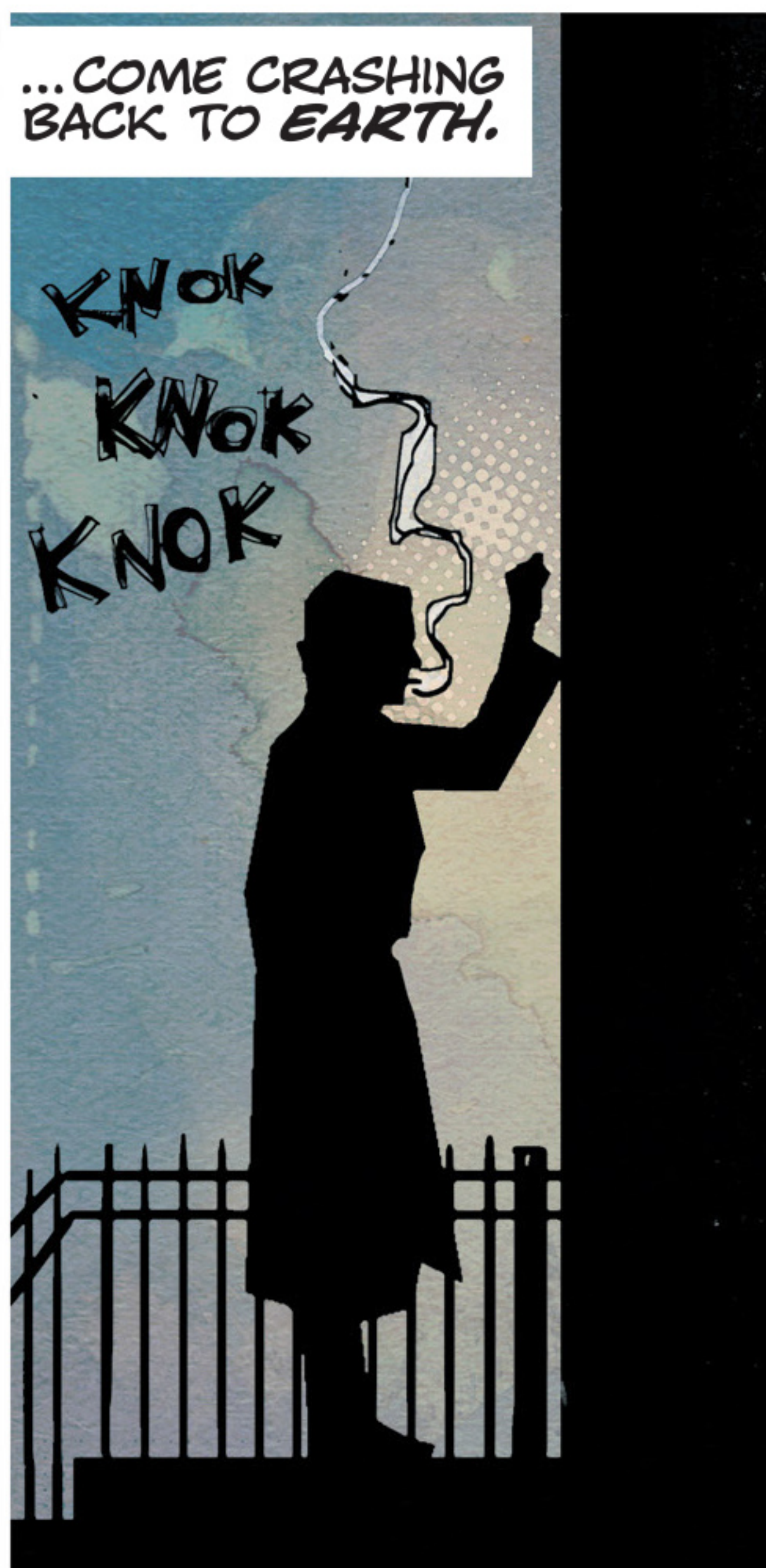
GOOD.

SEE?  
**TRUST**. THE  
FOUNDATION OF  
ANY LONG-LASTING  
RELATIONSHIP.



















CENTRAL 01 - NEAR NORTH SIDE  
C.O.W.I. HEADQUARTERS

SO YOU WERE GOING  
TO MEET THE VICTIM  
FOR A DRINK.

YEAH, THE  
VICTIM...

I'M JUST  
GOING TO  
CALL HIM  
JOHN,  
OKAY?

WHAT WAS JOHN  
DOING?

HE WAS IN THE RIGHT  
PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. CAUGHT  
A ROBBERY IN PROGRESS. BY  
THE TIME I GOT THERE, HE'D JUST  
FINISHED TAKING THE GUYS DOWN.

AND THEN  
WHAT?

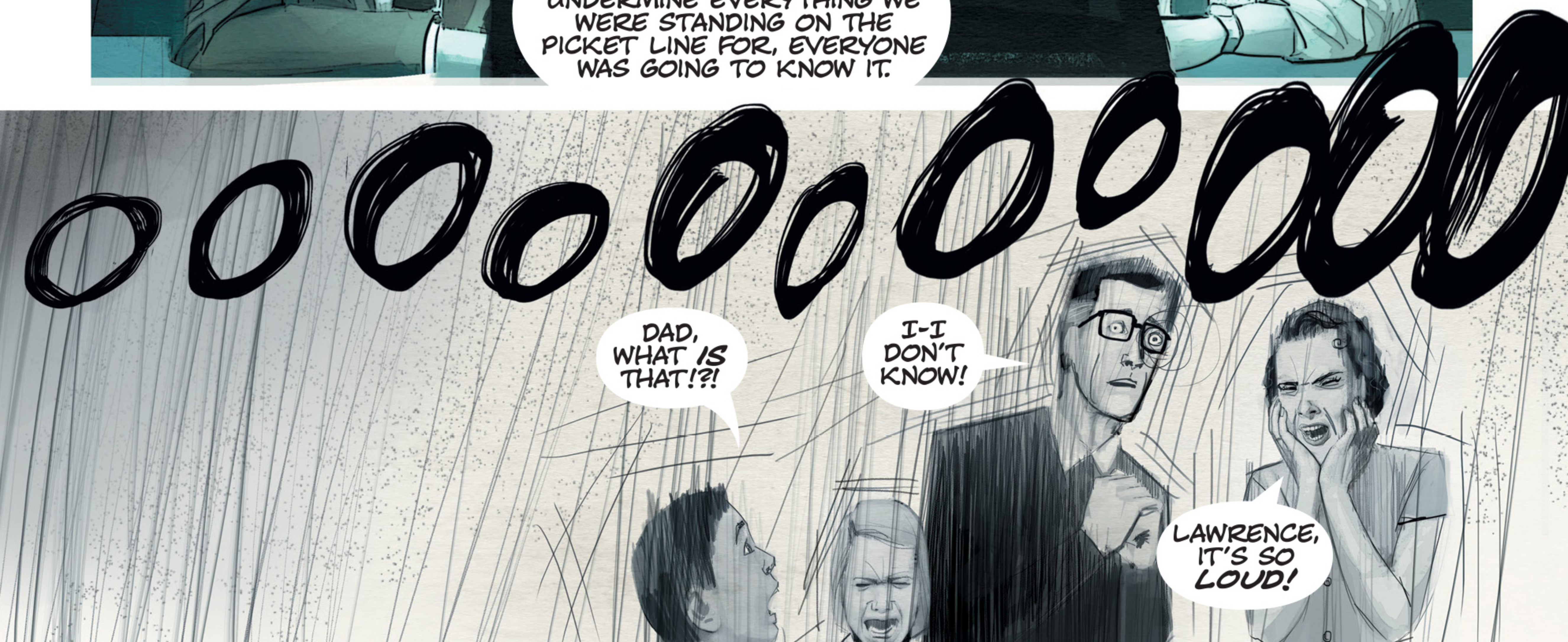
WELL... WE WERE  
ON FUCKING **STRIKE**, NOT TO  
MENTION, THESE GUYS WEREN'T EVEN  
IN OUR JURISDICTION. WHAT JOHN DID  
WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.  
AND I TOLD HIM THAT.

COME ON. EAT  
YOUR BREAKFAST,  
BILLY.

I **DID**  
EAT IT.

THERE'S  
CEREAL LEFT  
IN YOUR BOWL. IF  
YOU WANT TO GO  
TO RIVERVIEW,  
YOU HAVE TO  
FINISH IT.







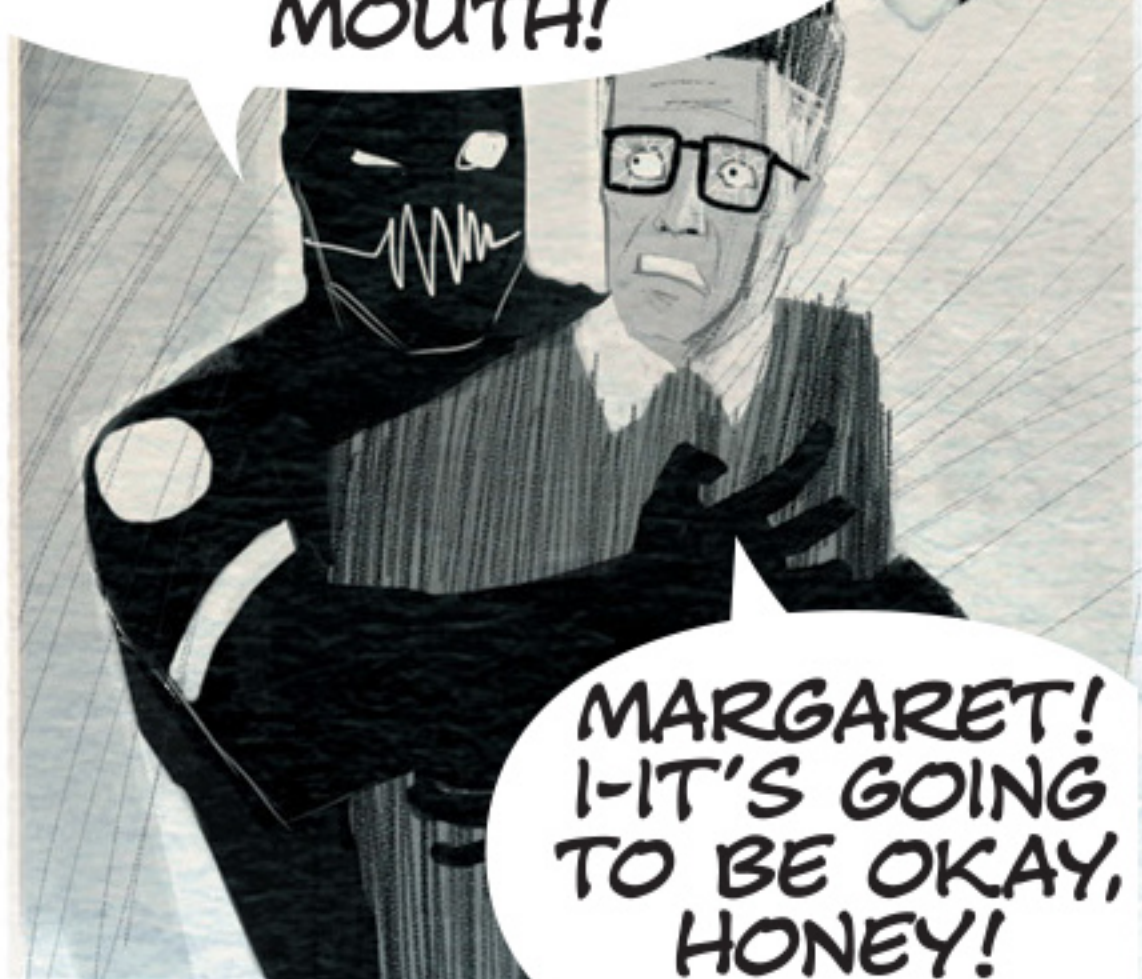






AND...  
I... HE...  
WAS SERIOUS.  
SO I... I...

TELL HER TO SHUT  
HER GODDAMN  
MOUTH!



MARGARET!  
I-IT'S GOING  
TO BE OKAY,  
HONEY!

AAAAA AAAAAA



SHUT  
UP!



UNGH!

SLAP



YOU  
KILLED  
HIM.



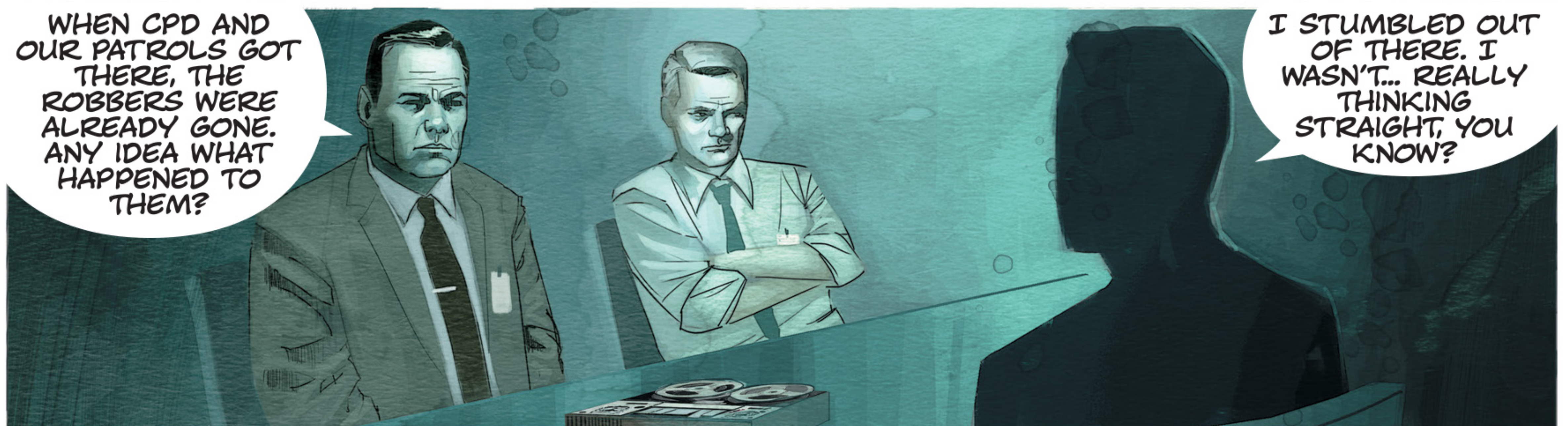
HRK!

COME  
ON NOW!



...  
I GUESS  
I... I MEAN...  
THAT'S WHAT  
HAPPENED...









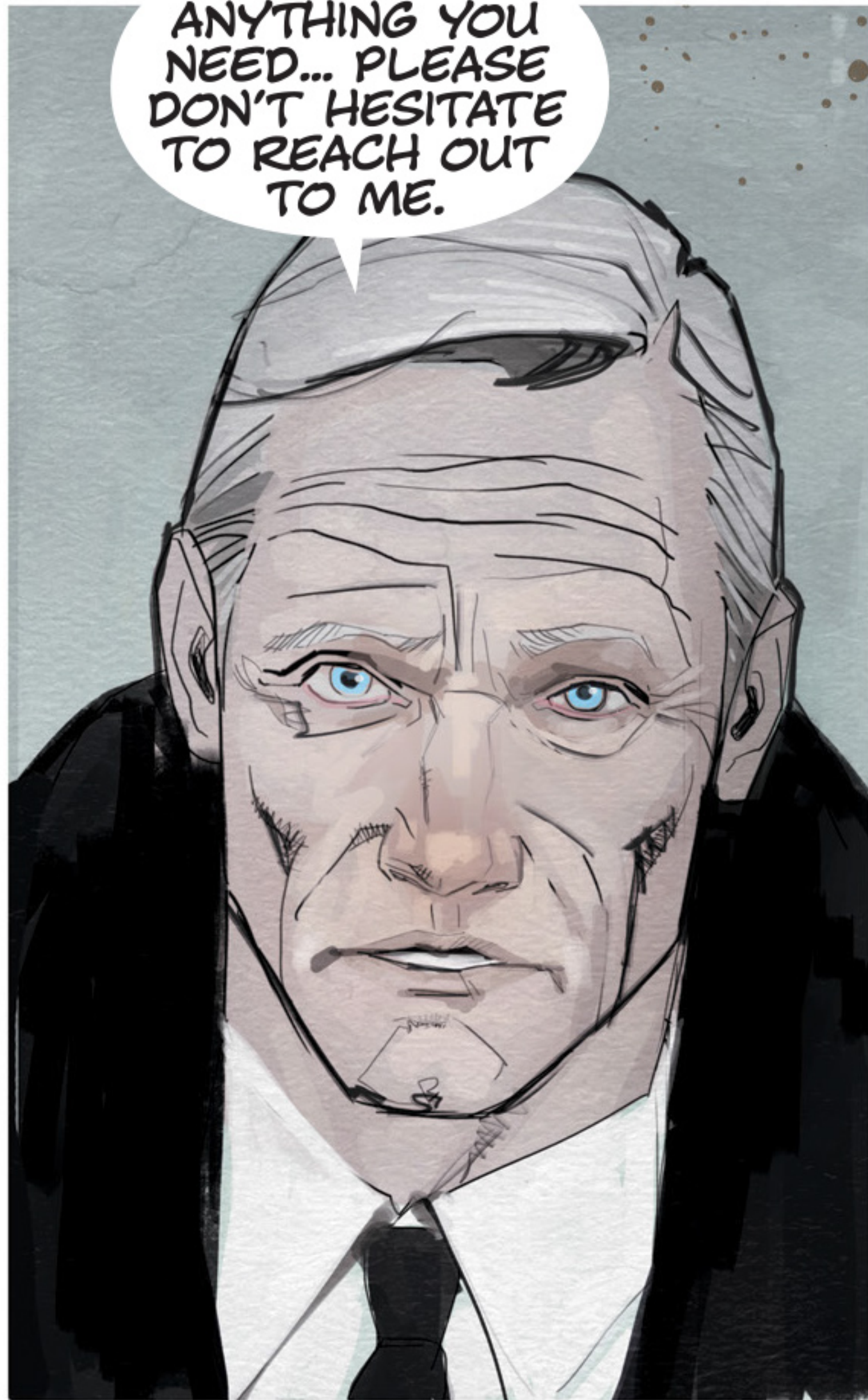
# CHAPTER 2

## Doppler Shift

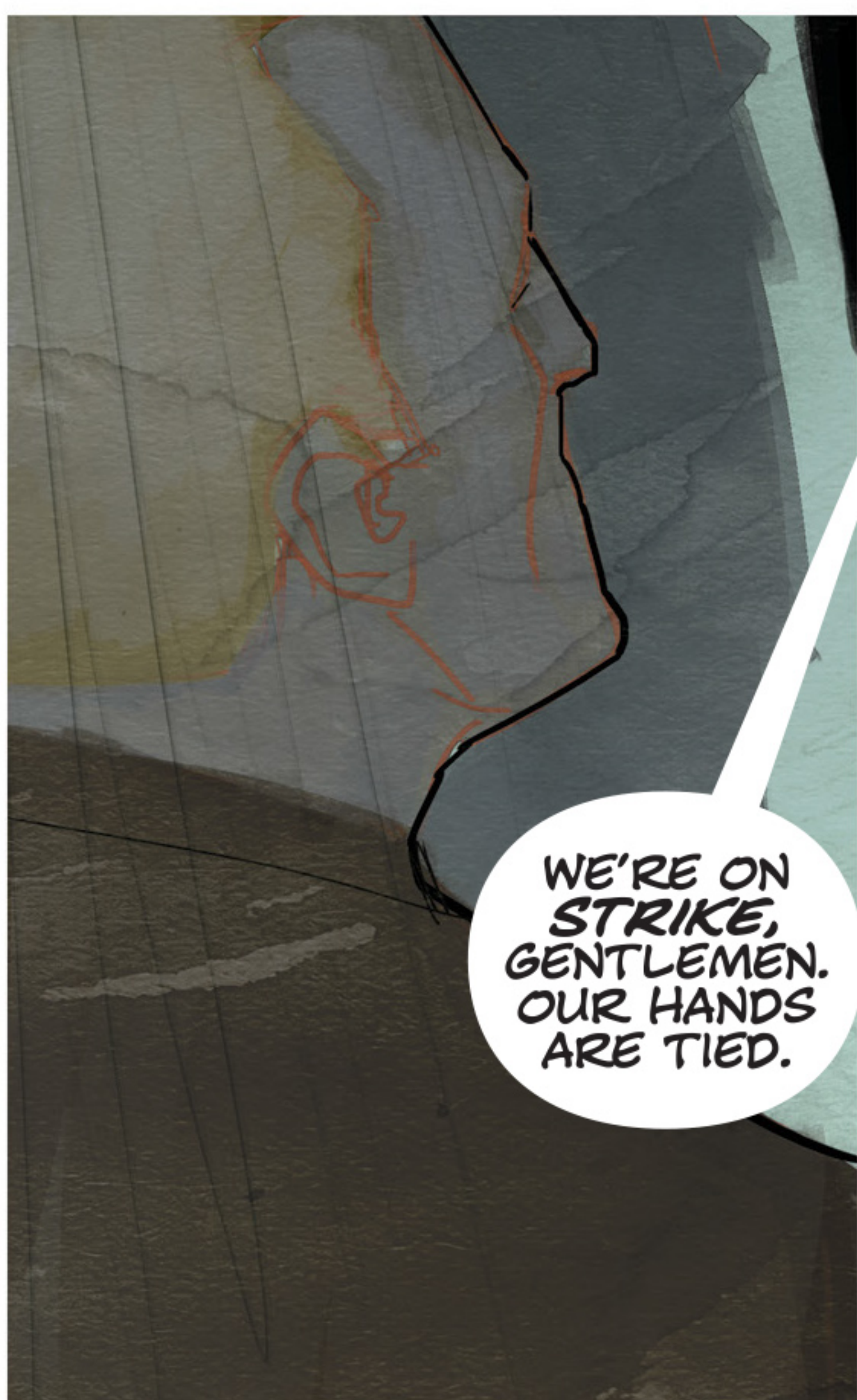
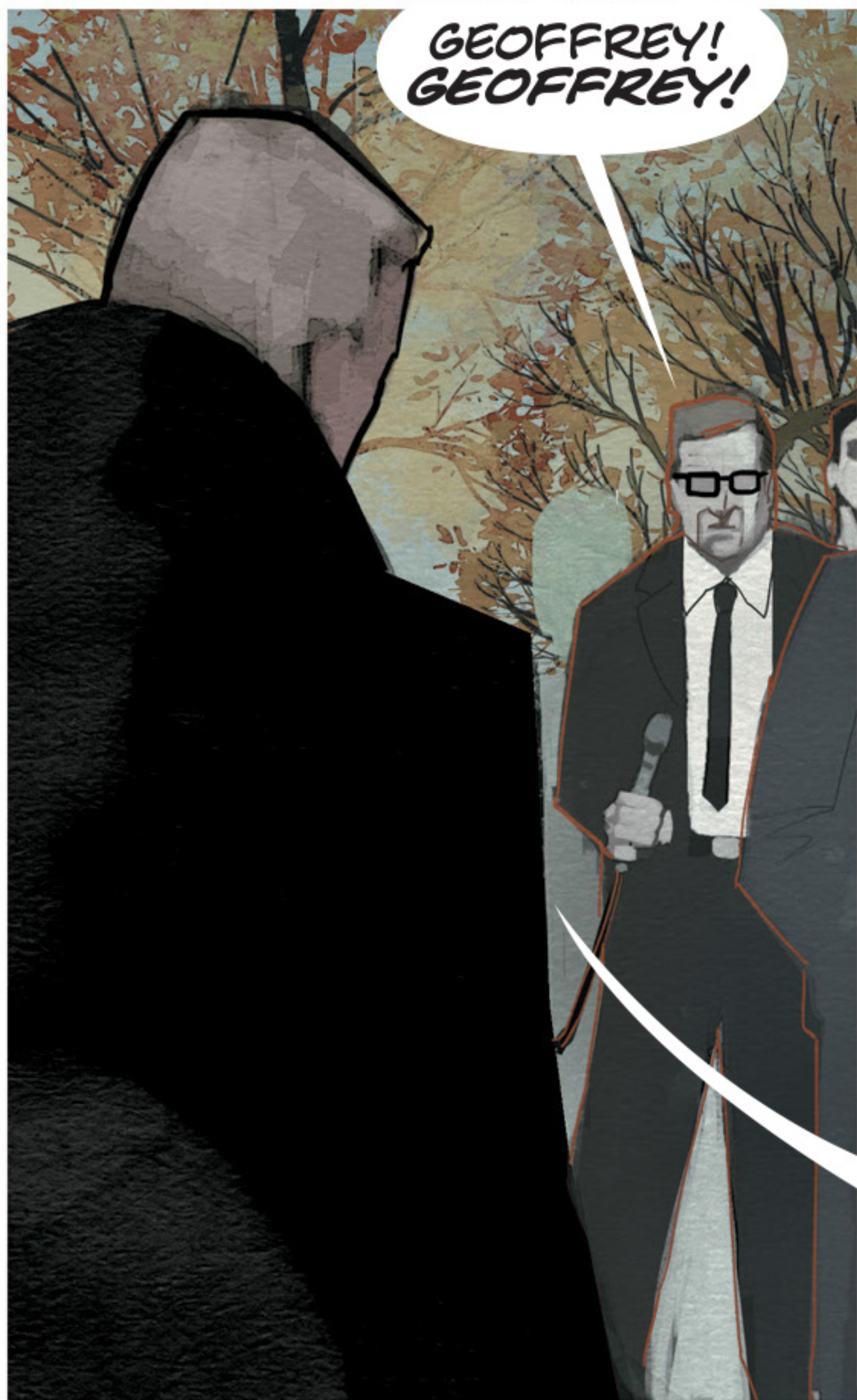




















I THOUGHT  
YOU WEREN'T  
ON 'TIL FIVE?



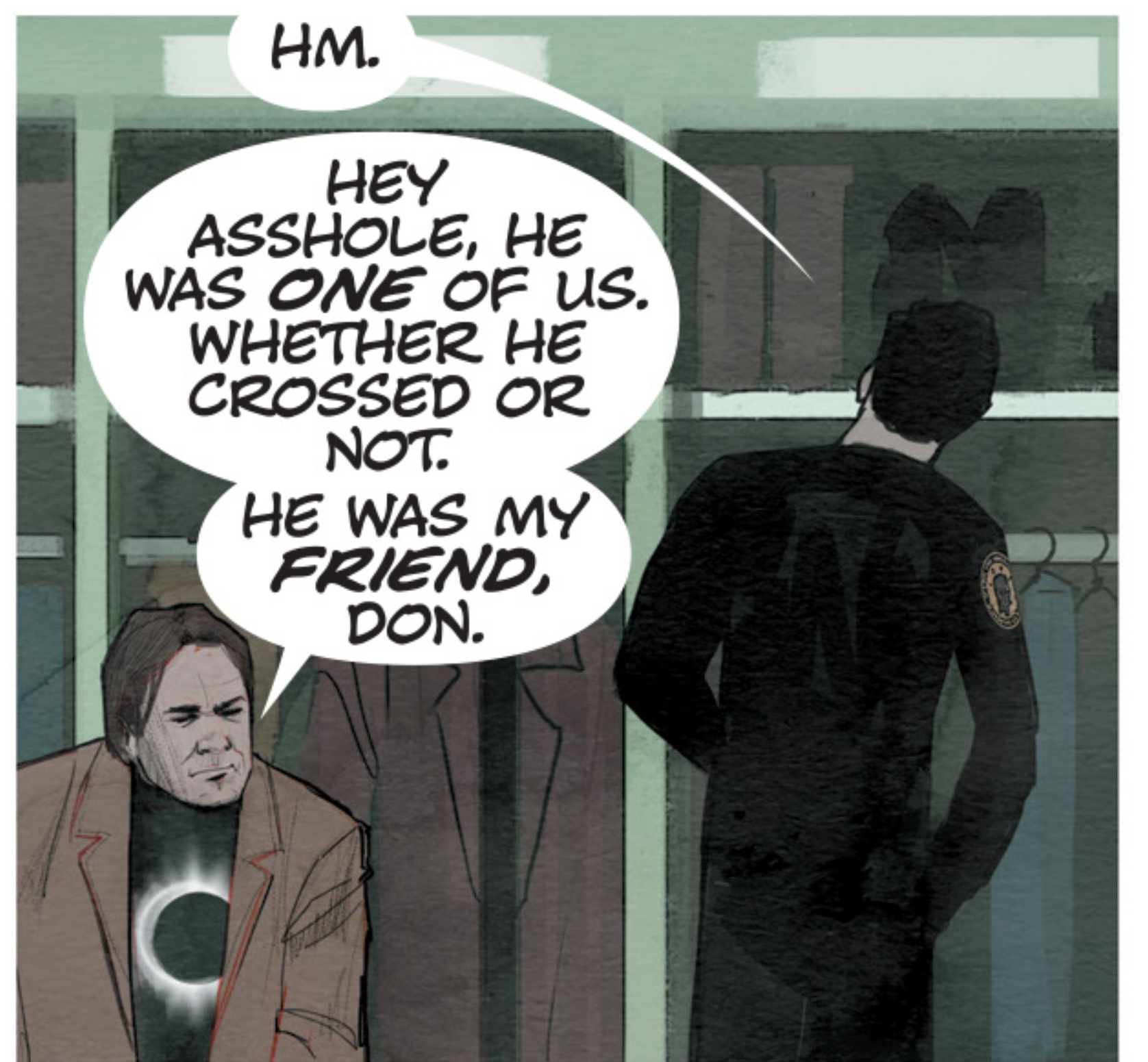
YEAH, WELL, I  
SPENT HALF THE  
DAY AT THE  
**FUNERAL**. IF I  
STILL GOTTA GO TO  
THE PICKET LINE,  
I'D RATHER DO  
IT NOW.



YOU WENT  
TO THE  
FUNERAL?

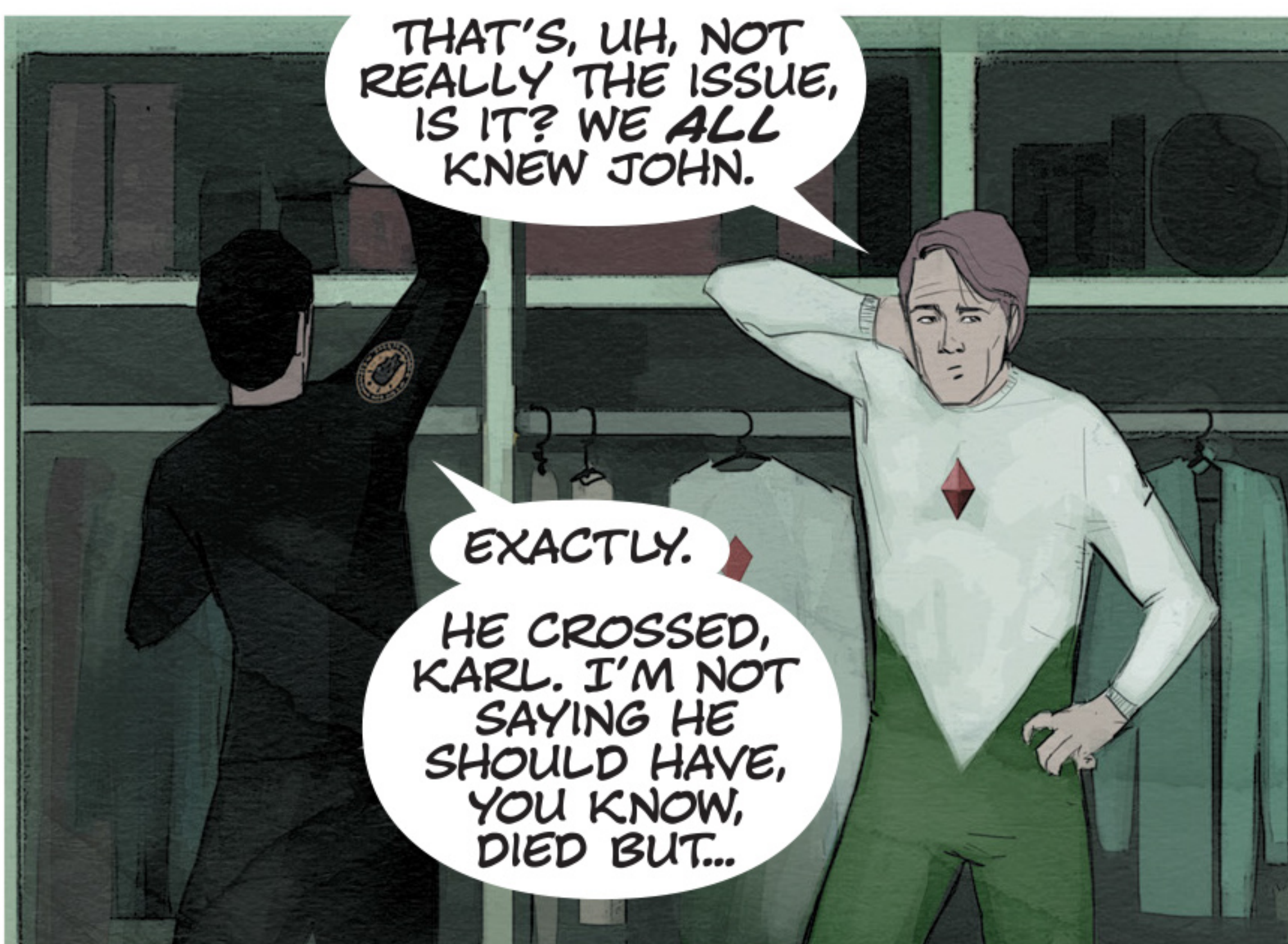


YEAH. I WENT  
TO THE  
FUNERAL.



HM.

HEY  
ASSHOLE, HE  
WAS **ONE OF US**.  
WHETHER HE  
CROSSED OR  
NOT.  
HE WAS MY  
**FRIEND**,  
DON.



THAT'S, UH, NOT  
REALLY THE ISSUE,  
IS IT? WE **ALL**  
KNEW JOHN.

EXACTLY.

HE CROSSED,  
KARL. I'M NOT  
SAYING HE  
SHOULD HAVE,  
YOU KNOW,  
DIED BUT...



WELL  
IT'S HARD TO  
SAY ANYTHING  
WHEN YOUR  
HEAD'S THAT FAR  
DOWN FRANK'S  
PANTS, ISN'T  
IT?



WHAT THE FUCK'S **WITH** YOU  
LATELY? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO  
TALKS ABOUT STANDING TOGETHER.  
JOHN SCREWED THAT UP.



FUCK  
YOU.







OH.  
HEY.

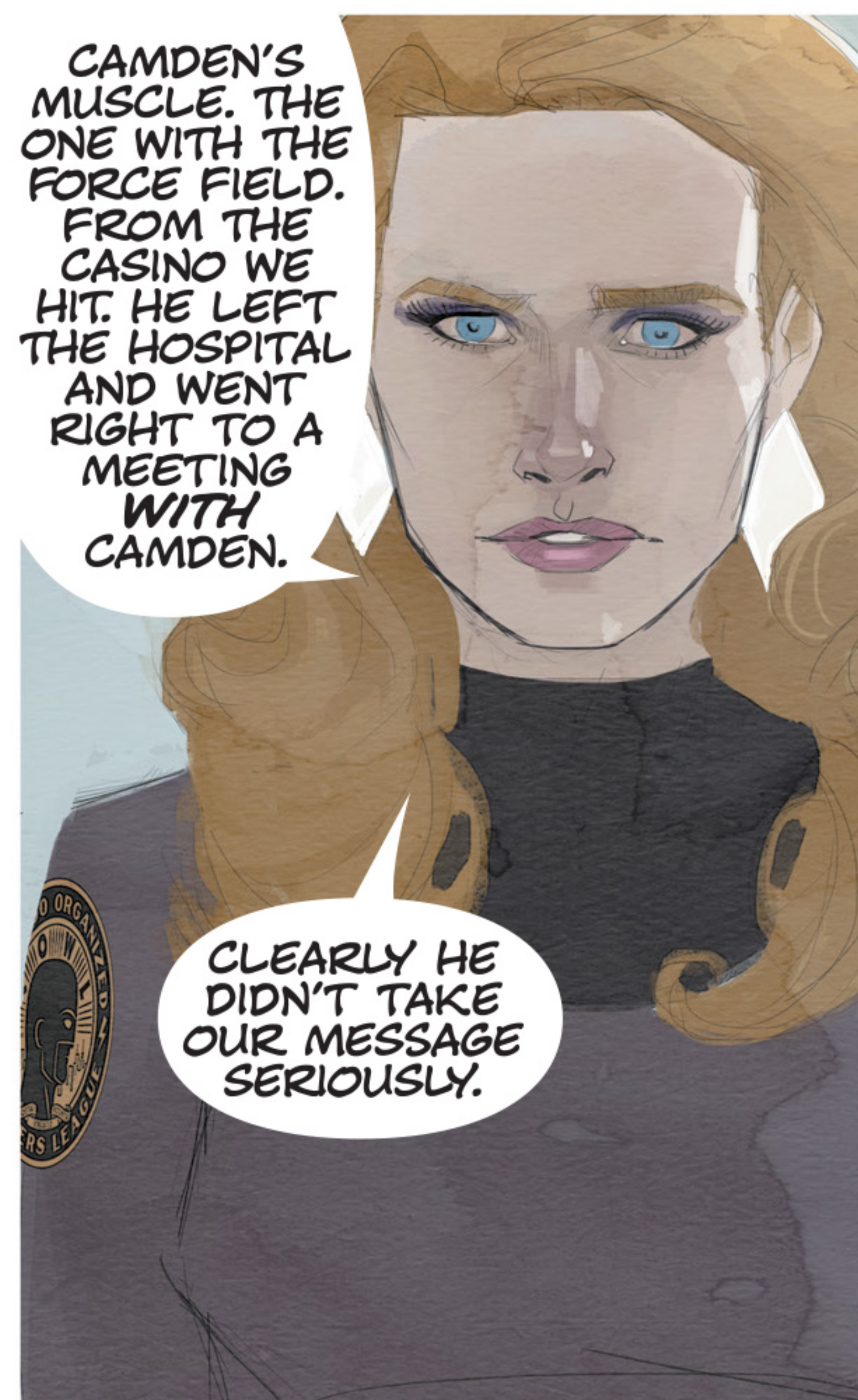
GUESS  
WHO JUST  
GOT OUT OF THE  
HOSPITAL AND IS  
STICKING AROUND  
TOWN?

DO I  
REALLY  
GOTTA  
GUESS,  
OR...?

JIMMY  
MACAULEY.



UH,  
WHO?



CAMDEN'S  
MUSCLE. THE  
ONE WITH THE  
FORCE FIELD.  
FROM THE  
CASINO WE  
HIT. HE LEFT  
THE HOSPITAL  
AND WENT  
RIGHT TO A  
MEETING  
WITH  
CAMDEN.

CLEARLY HE  
DIDN'T TAKE  
OUR MESSAGE  
SERIOUSLY.



I WAS THINKING  
WE HIT HIM  
AGAIN, LAY IT ON  
HARDER IF NEED  
BE. SHOW HIM  
WE'RE SERIOUS  
ABOUT HIM  
FINDING A NEW  
LINE OF  
WORK.

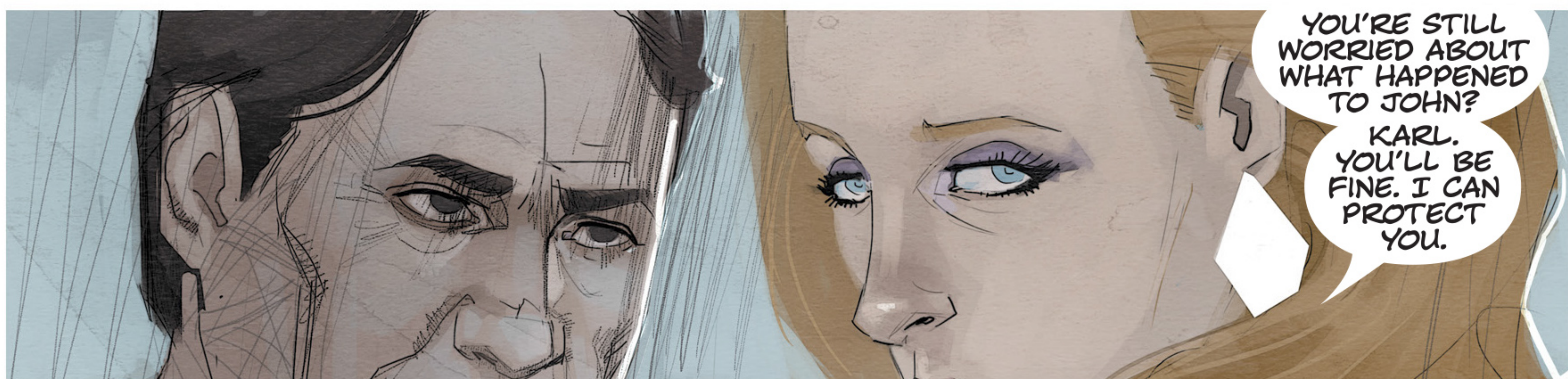


KEEP YOUR  
VOICE DOWN.

KARL, DON'T  
PUSH ME.

THERE'S  
NO ONE  
HERE.

OKAY, WELL...  
I DON'T THINK  
THIS IS SUCH  
A GOOD IDEA.



YOU'RE STILL  
WORRIED ABOUT  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO JOHN?

KARL.  
YOU'LL BE  
FINE. I CAN  
PROTECT  
YOU.

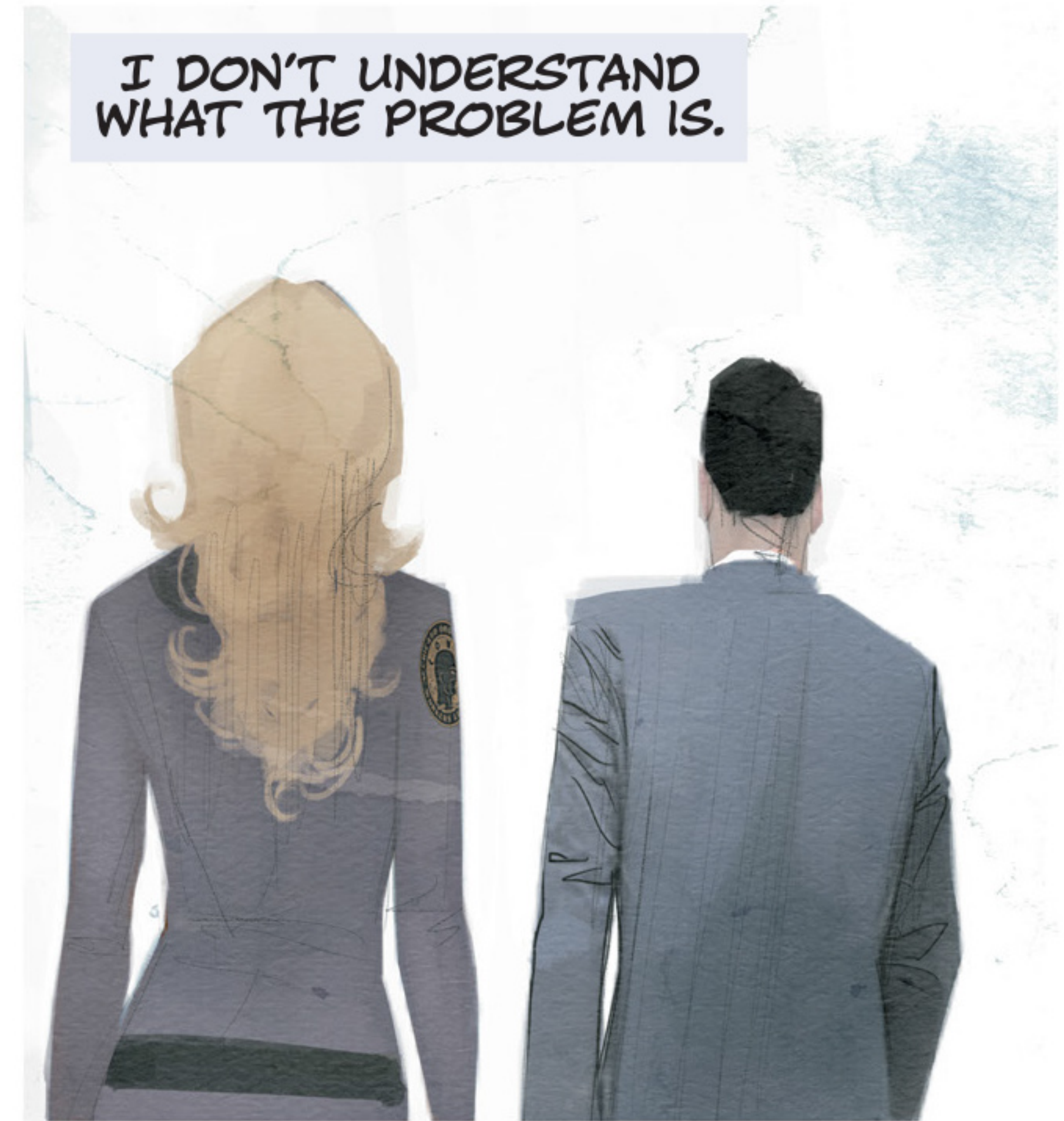
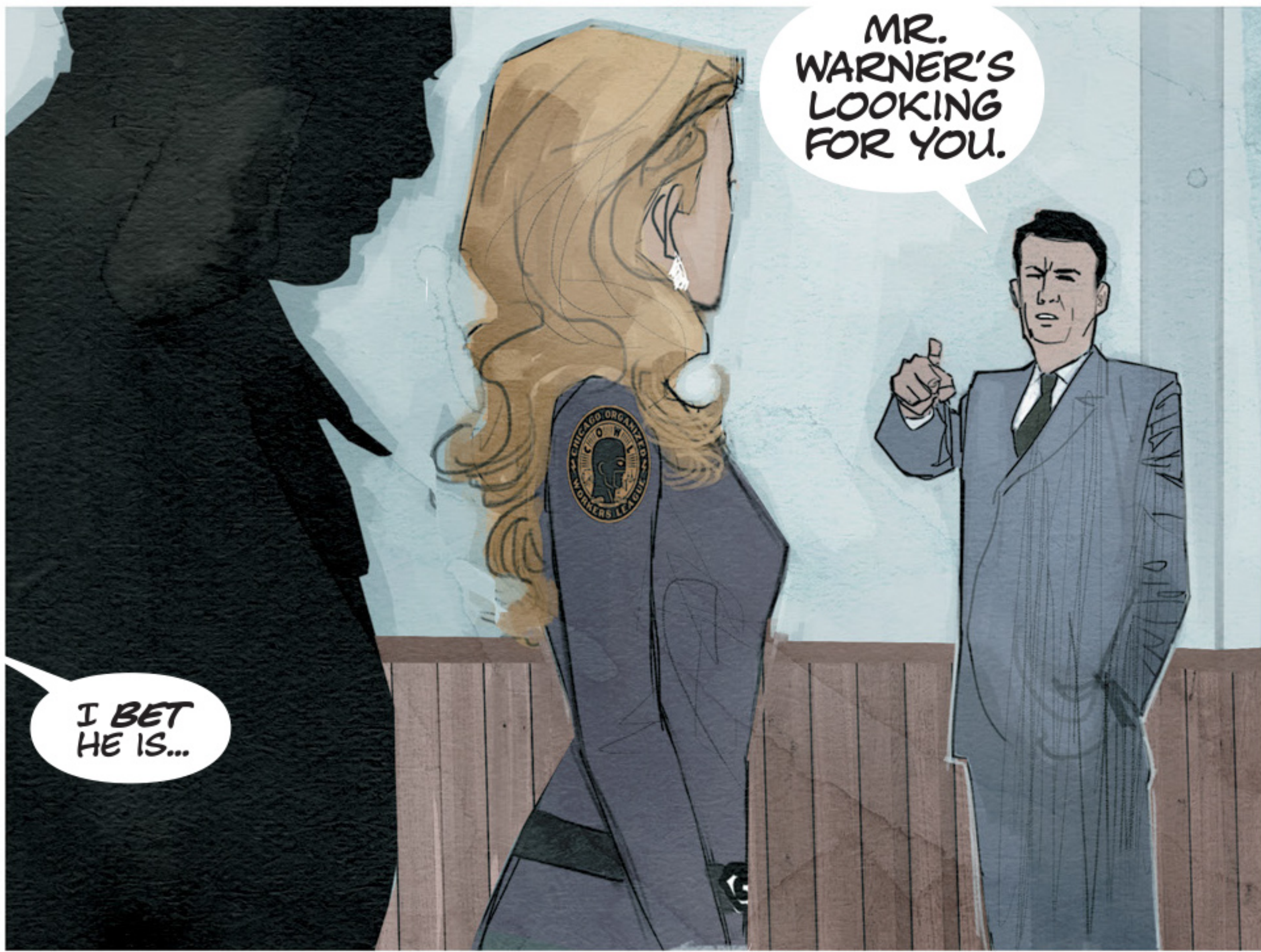
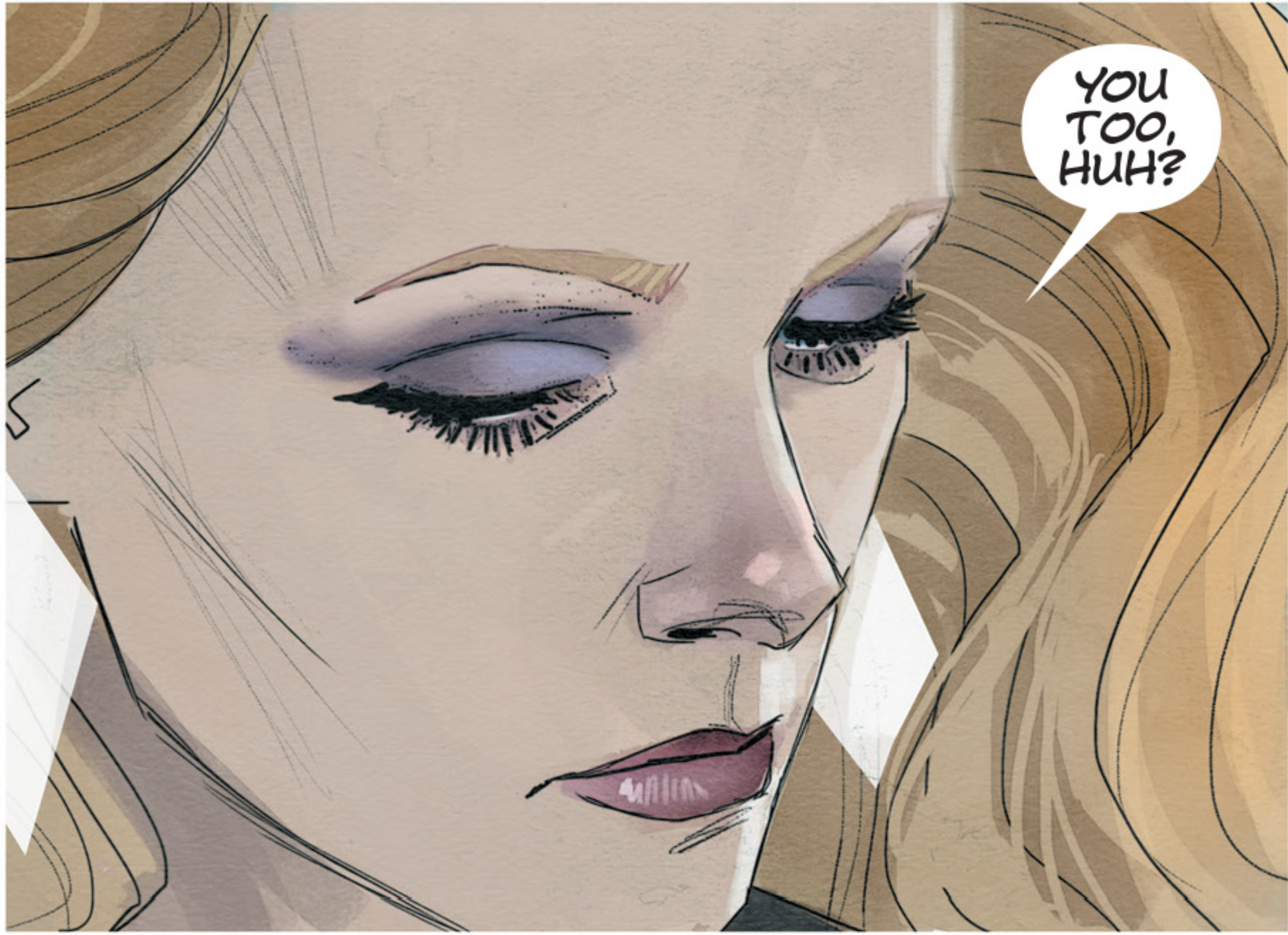
YEAH, I  
KNOW, KATHRYN.  
BUT...

LOOK,  
YOU'RE YOU. AND  
I'M ME. AND WE BOTH  
HAVE ROLES, RIGHT?  
WHO ARE WE TO STEP  
OUTSIDE THOSE?

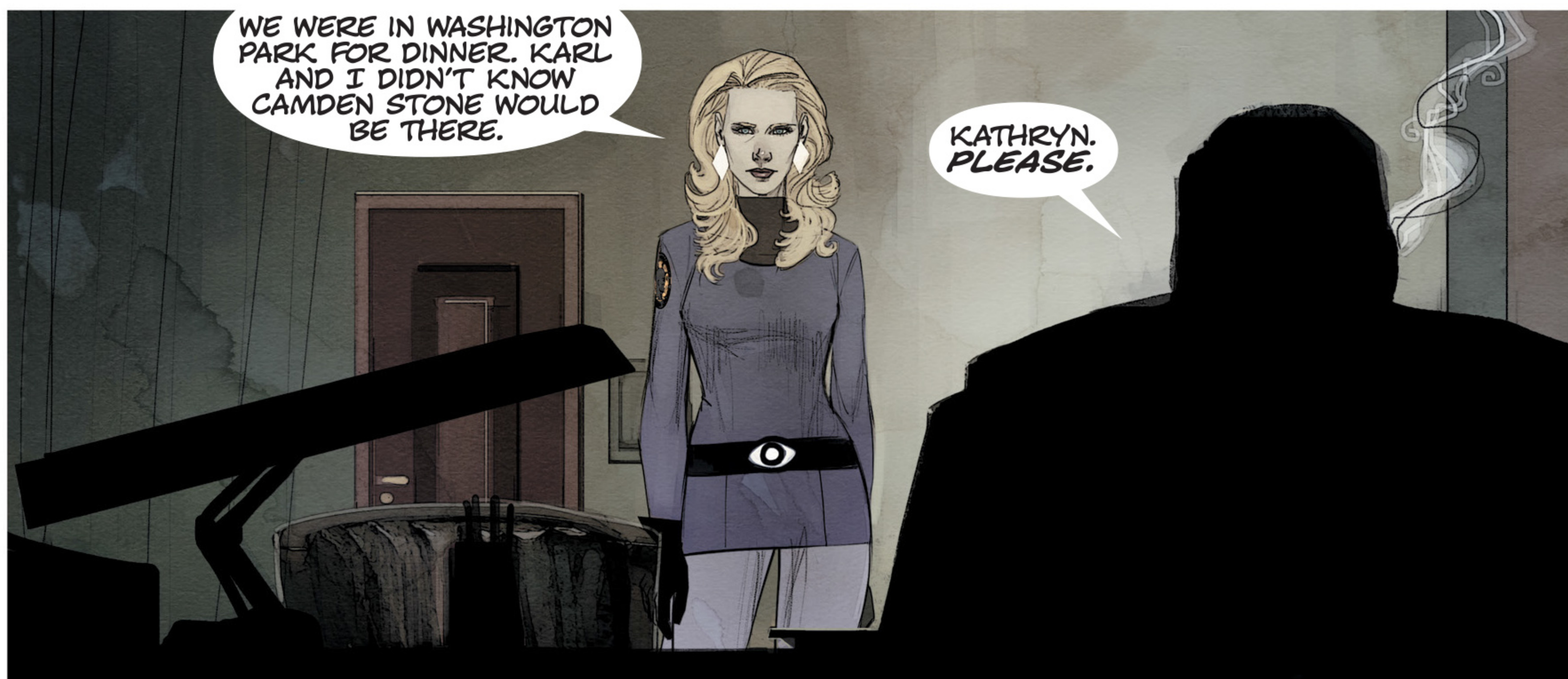
TO ESSENTIALLY  
SAY FUCK YOU TO  
THE PEOPLE  
ABOVE US, WHO'VE  
SAID STRIKING IS  
THE BEST COURSE  
'A ACTION?





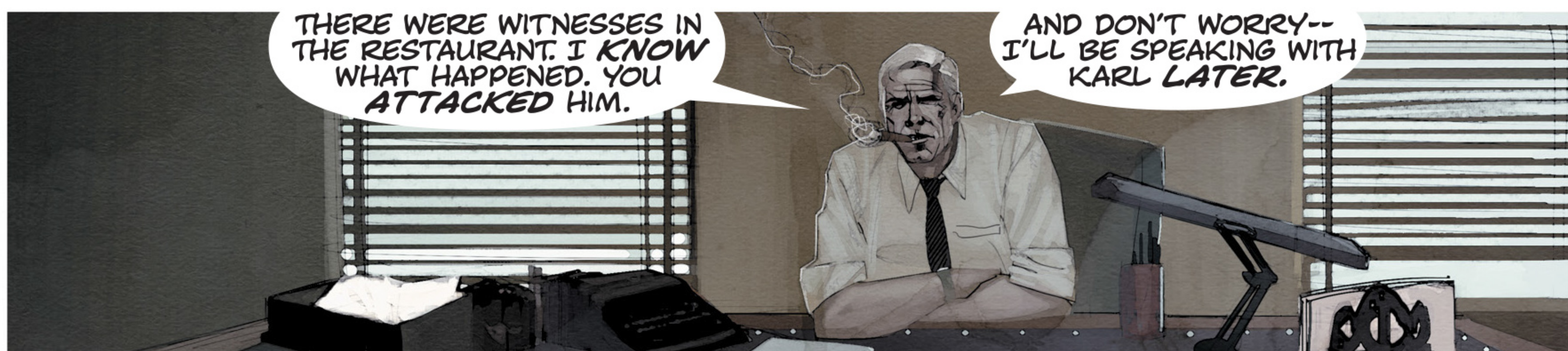






WE WERE IN WASHINGTON PARK FOR DINNER. KARL AND I DIDN'T KNOW CAMDEN STONE WOULD BE THERE.

KATHRYN. PLEASE.



THERE WERE WITNESSES IN THE RESTAURANT. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. YOU ATTACKED HIM.

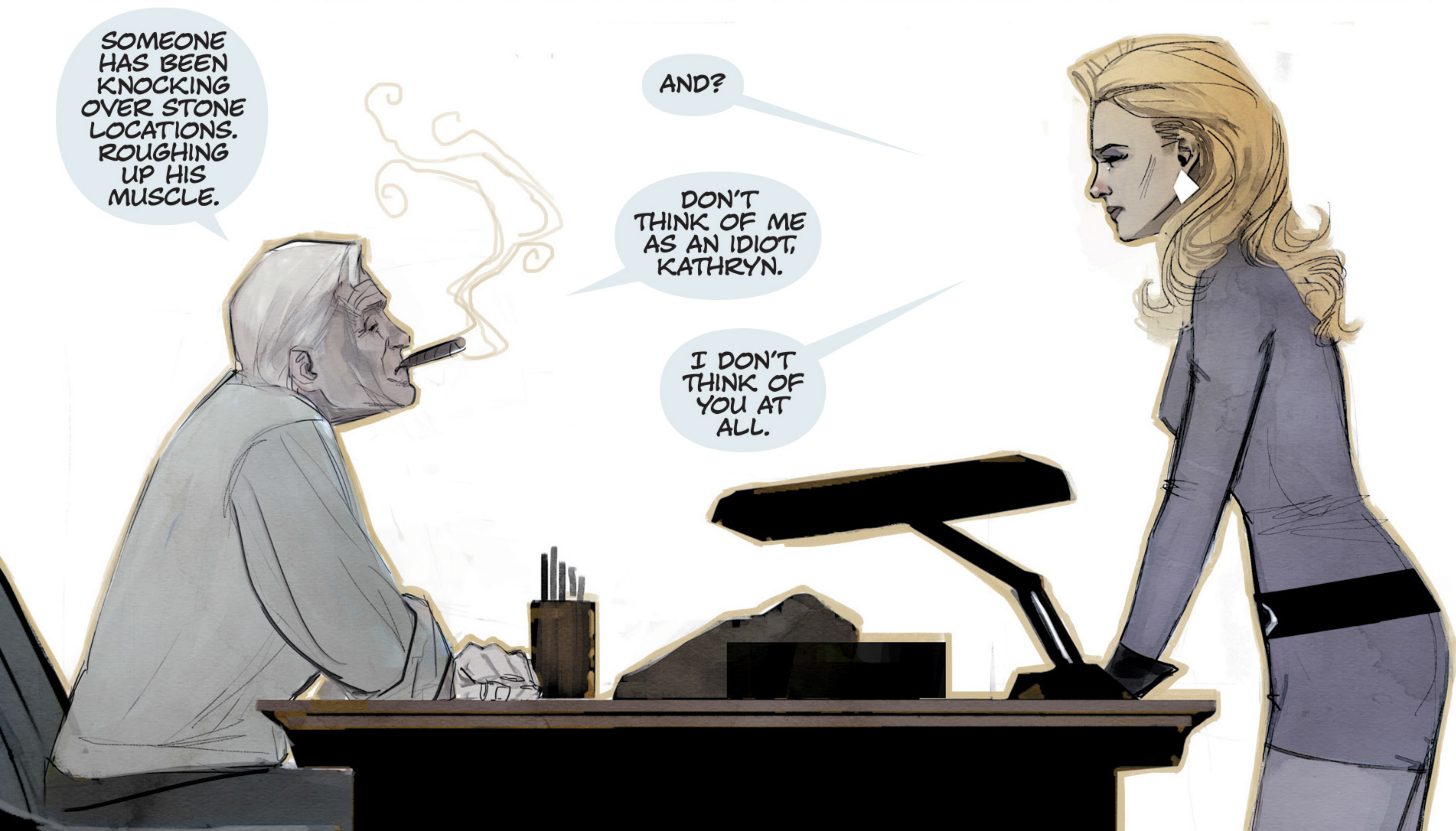
AND DON'T WORRY-- I'LL BE SPEAKING WITH KARL LATER.



BUT WE BOTH KNOW HE'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE. AND NEITHER IS THE RESTAURANT.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



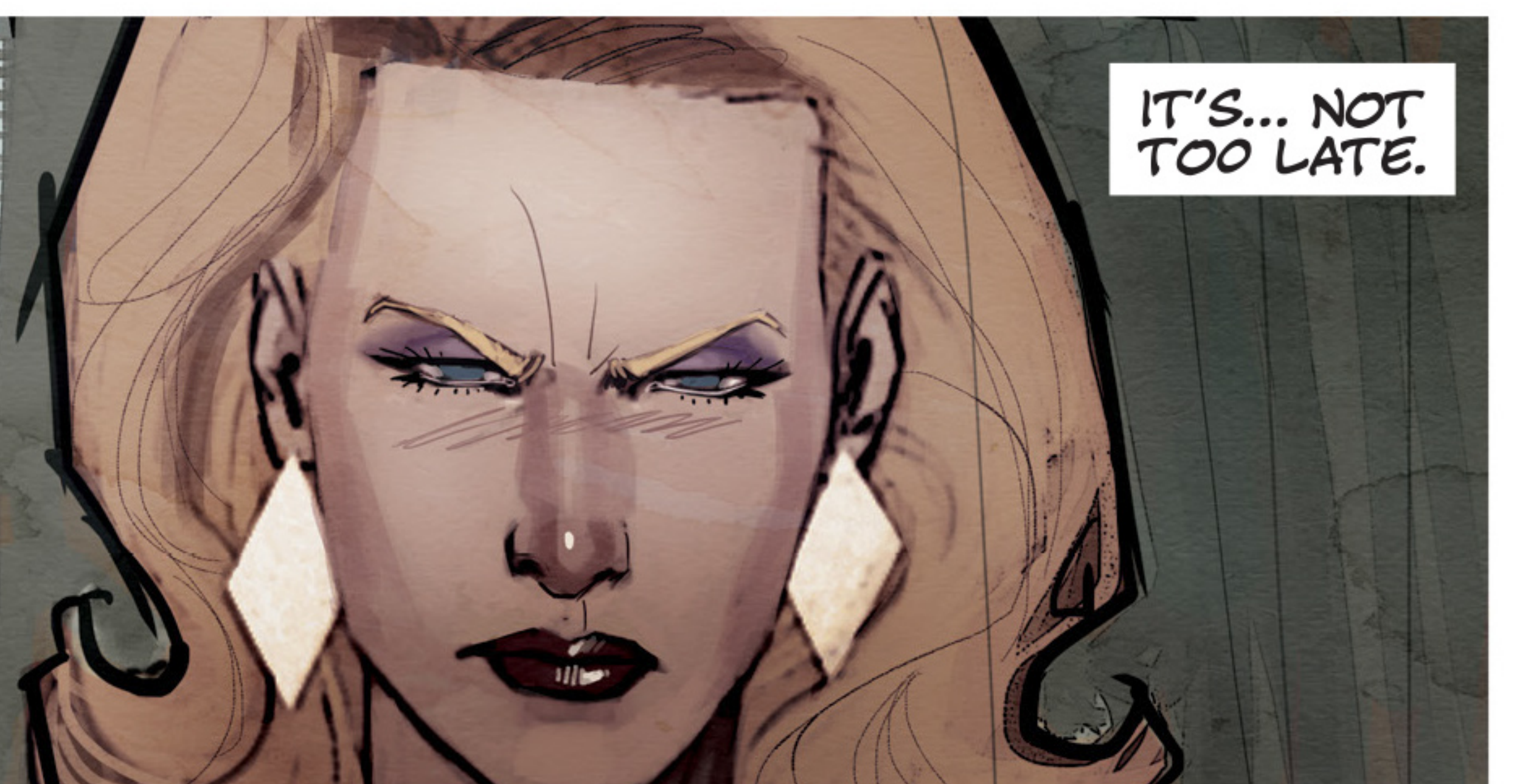
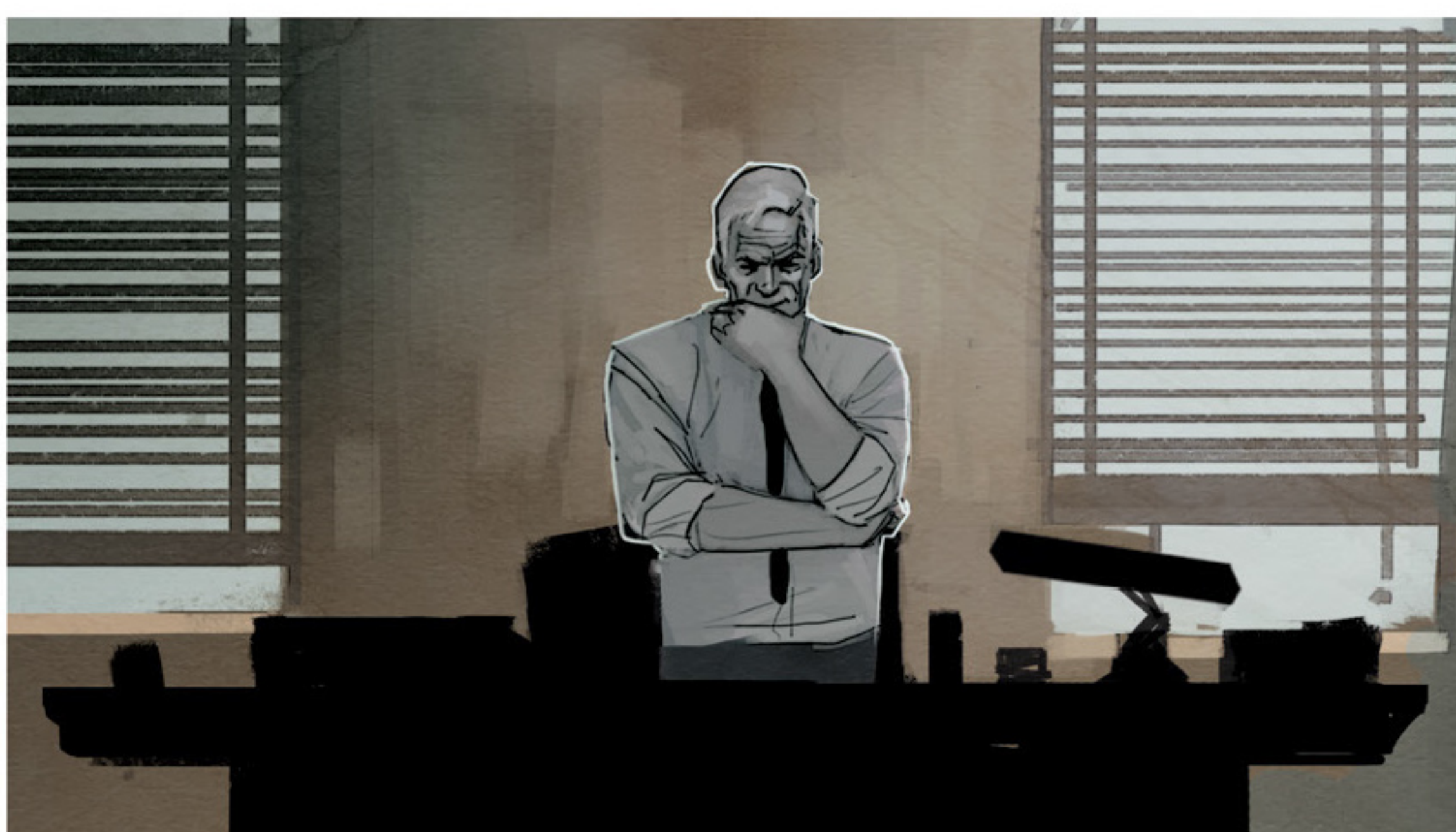
SOMEONE HAS BEEN KNOCKING OVER STONE LOCATIONS. ROUGHING UP HIS MUSCLE.

AND?

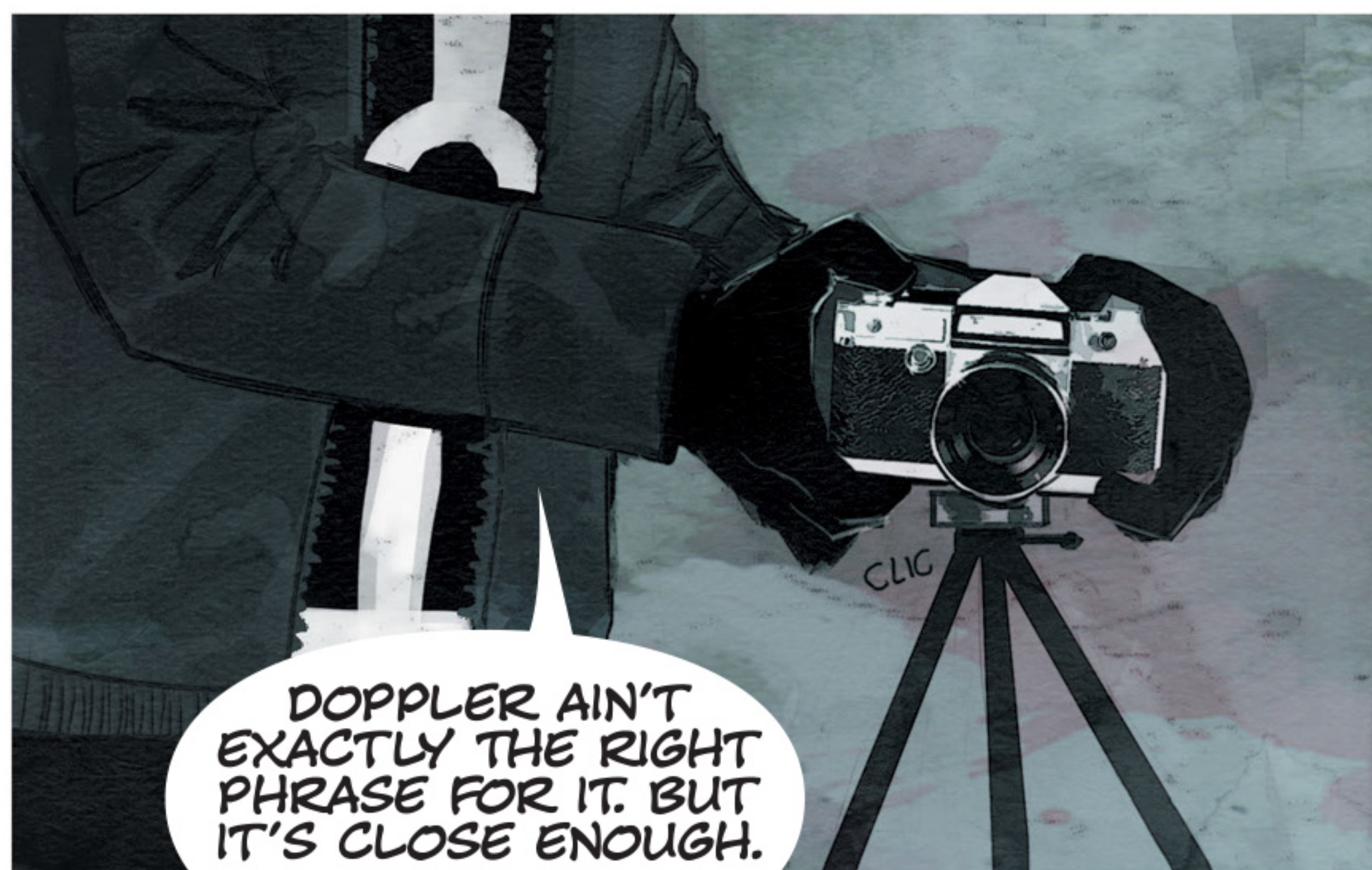
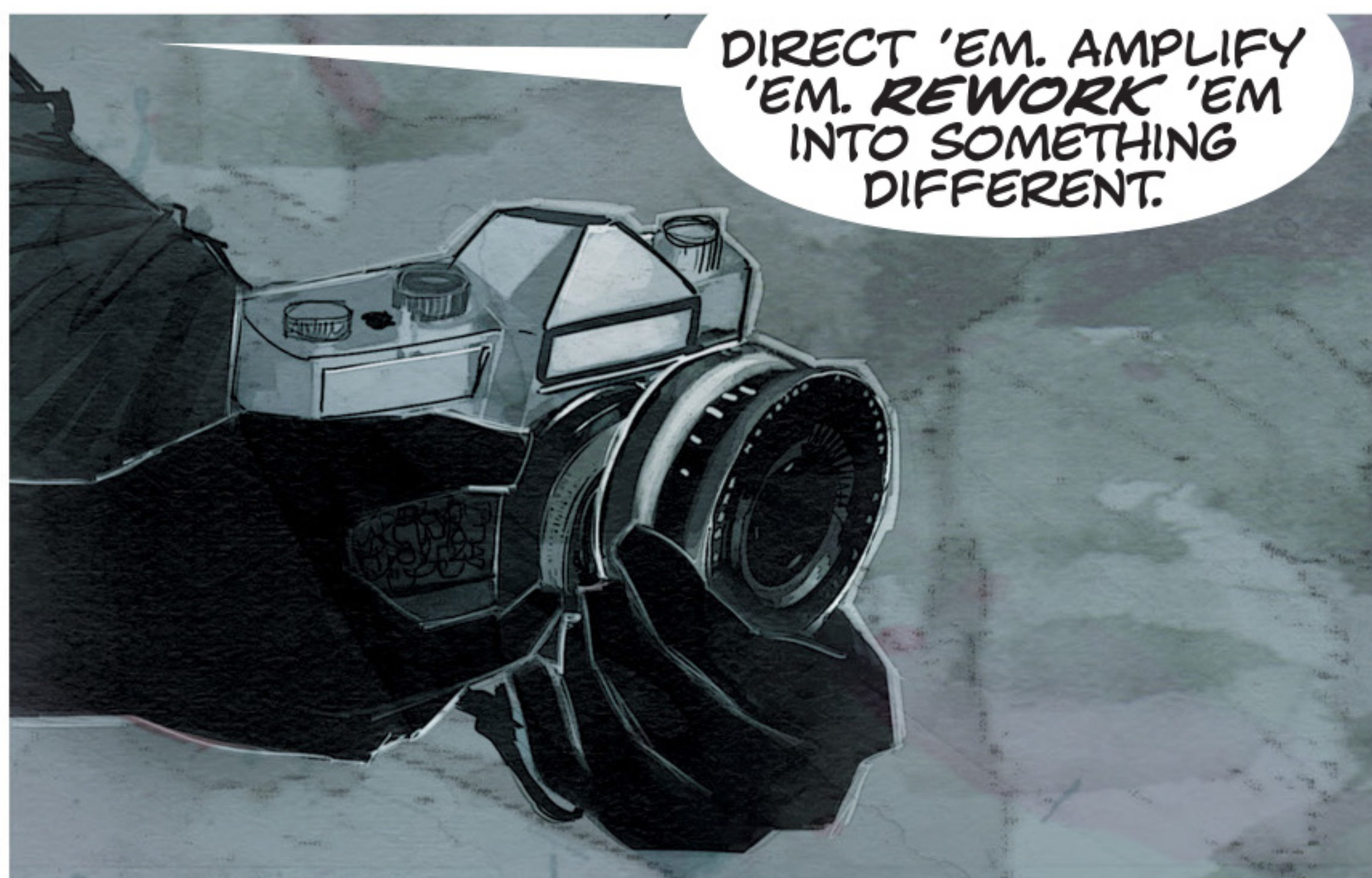
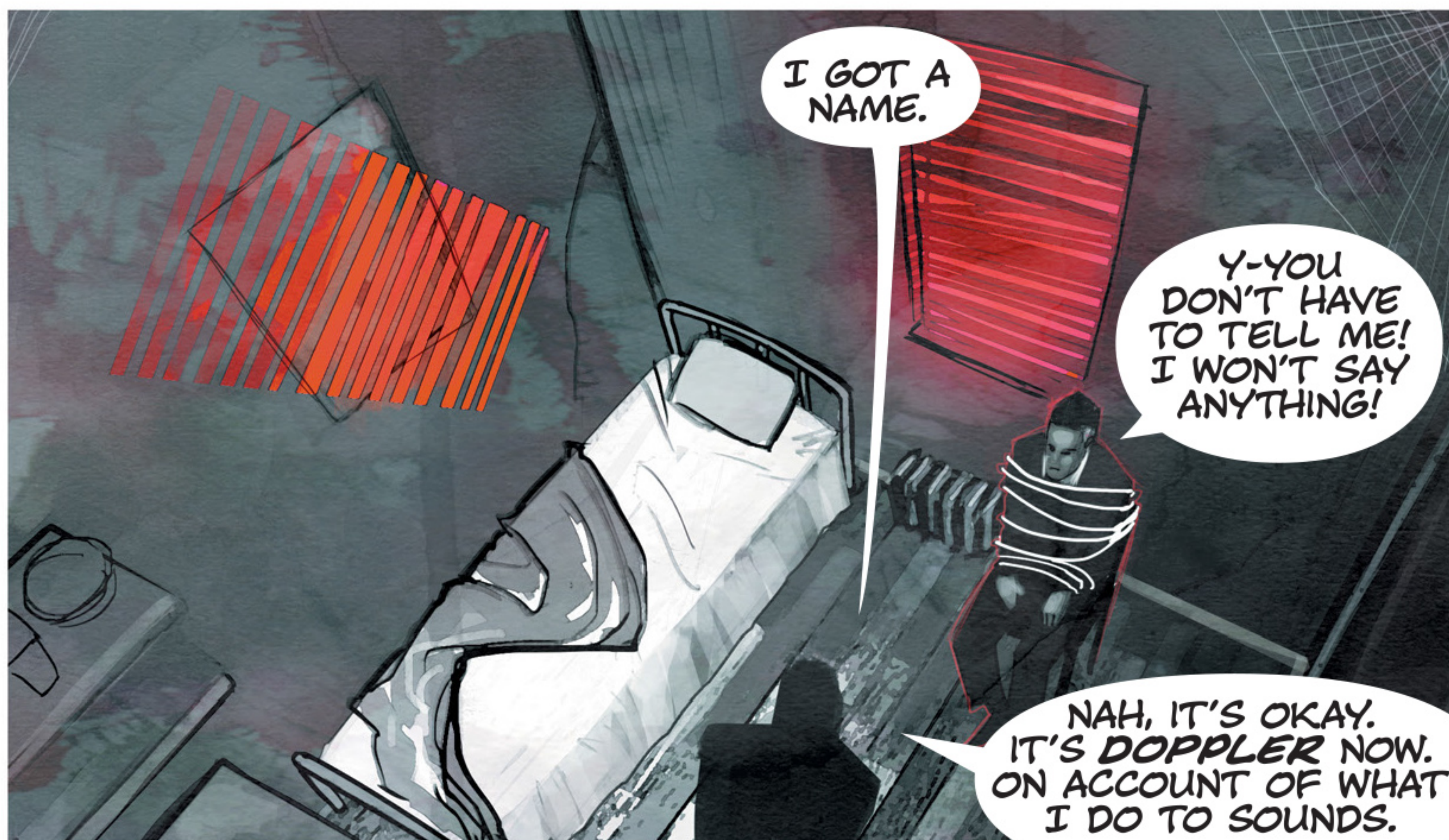
DON'T THINK OF ME AS AN IDIOT, KATHRYN.

I DON'T THINK OF YOU AT ALL.





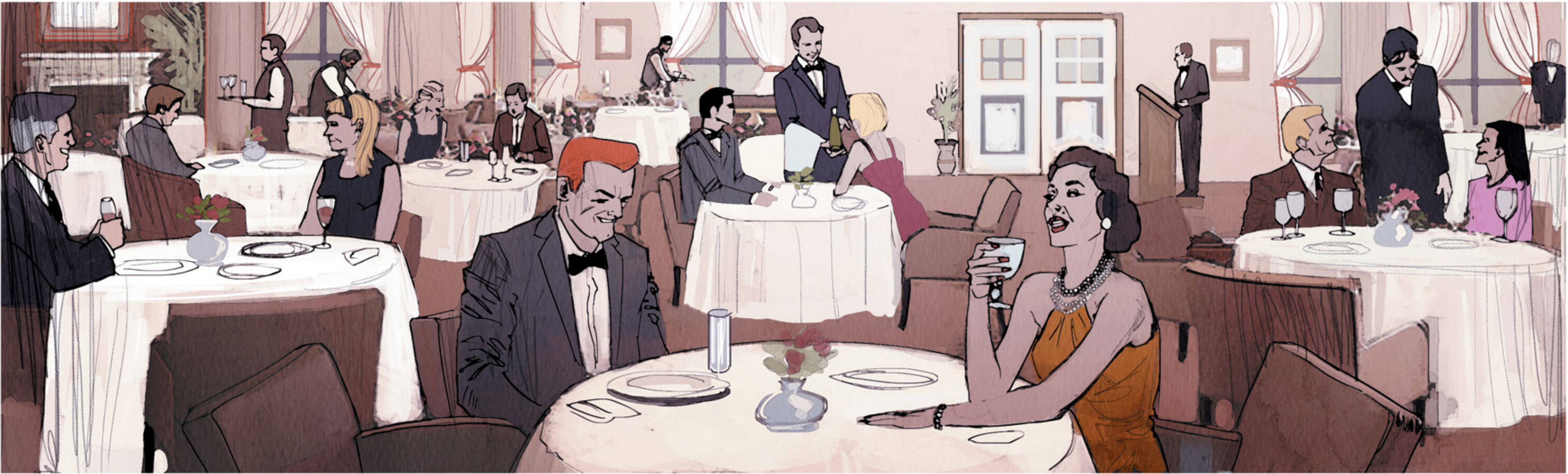




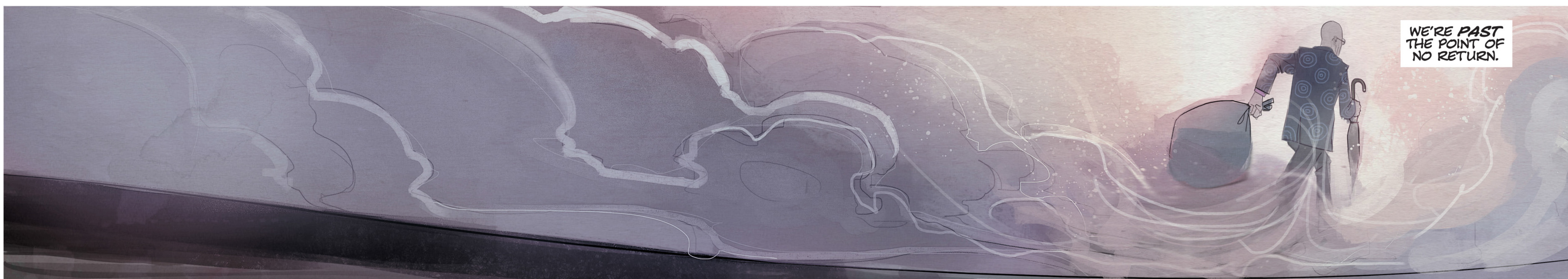
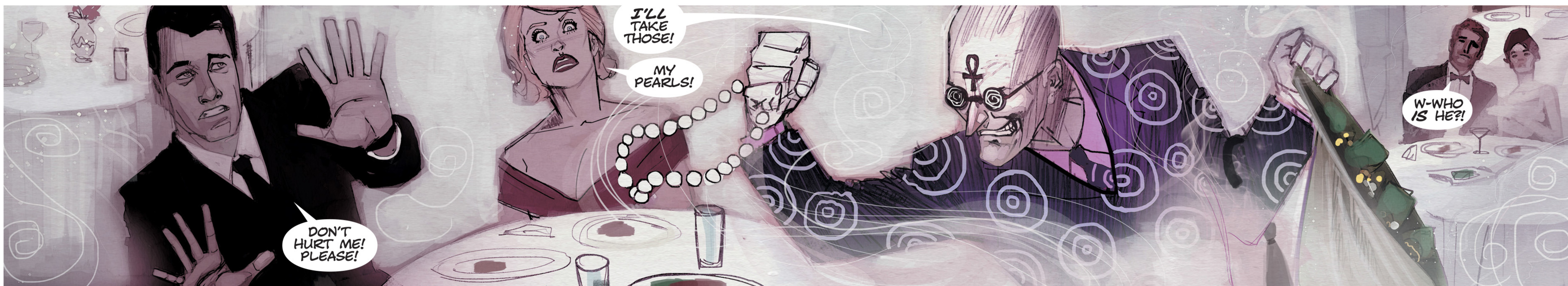
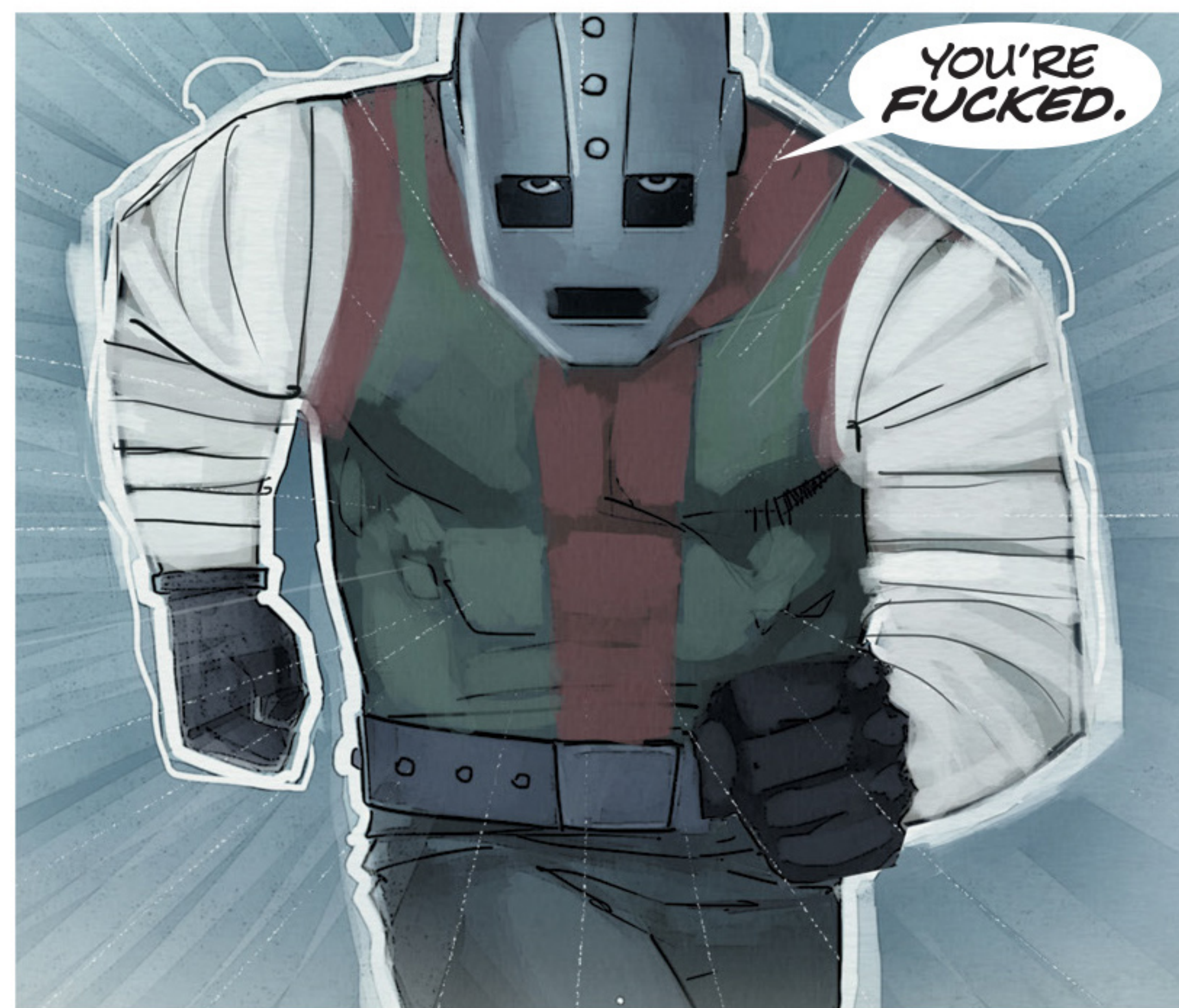




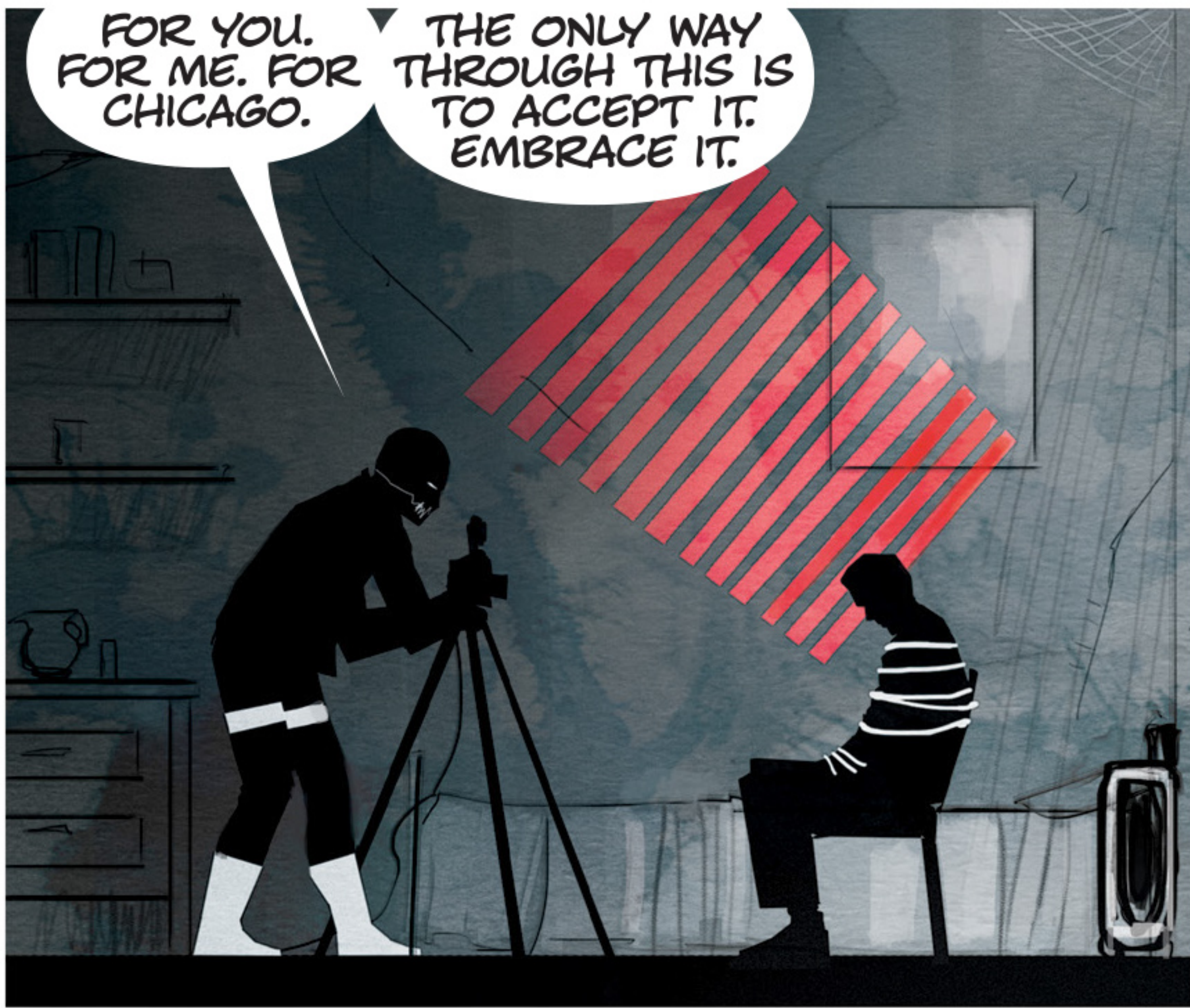




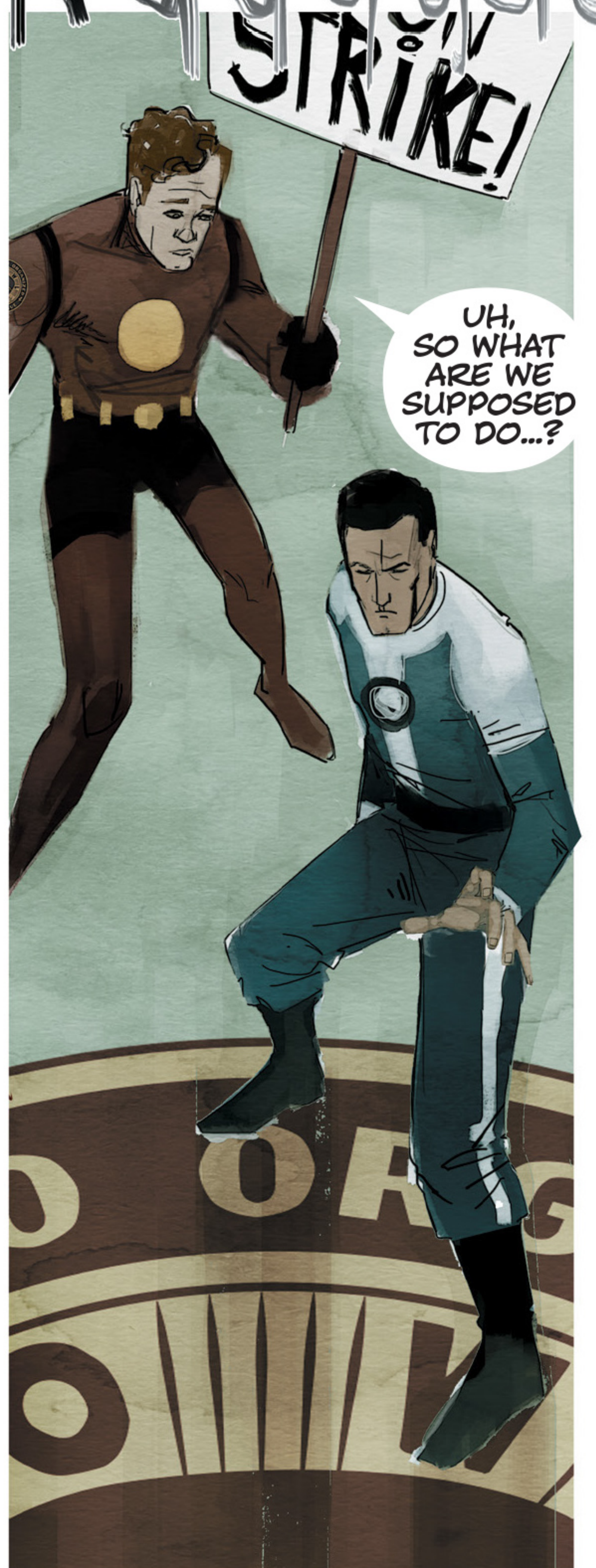








BBRRRRRIIIIIINNNGGGGGGG















I'M WAITING FOR EITHER ONE OF YOU TO MAKE YOUR POINT.







YOU HAVE A SUPERVILLAIN PROBLEM, MR. MAYOR, AND IT NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH.

AND YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY TO CHICAGO TO TELL ME SOMETHING I CAN READ IN MY OWN PAPERS.

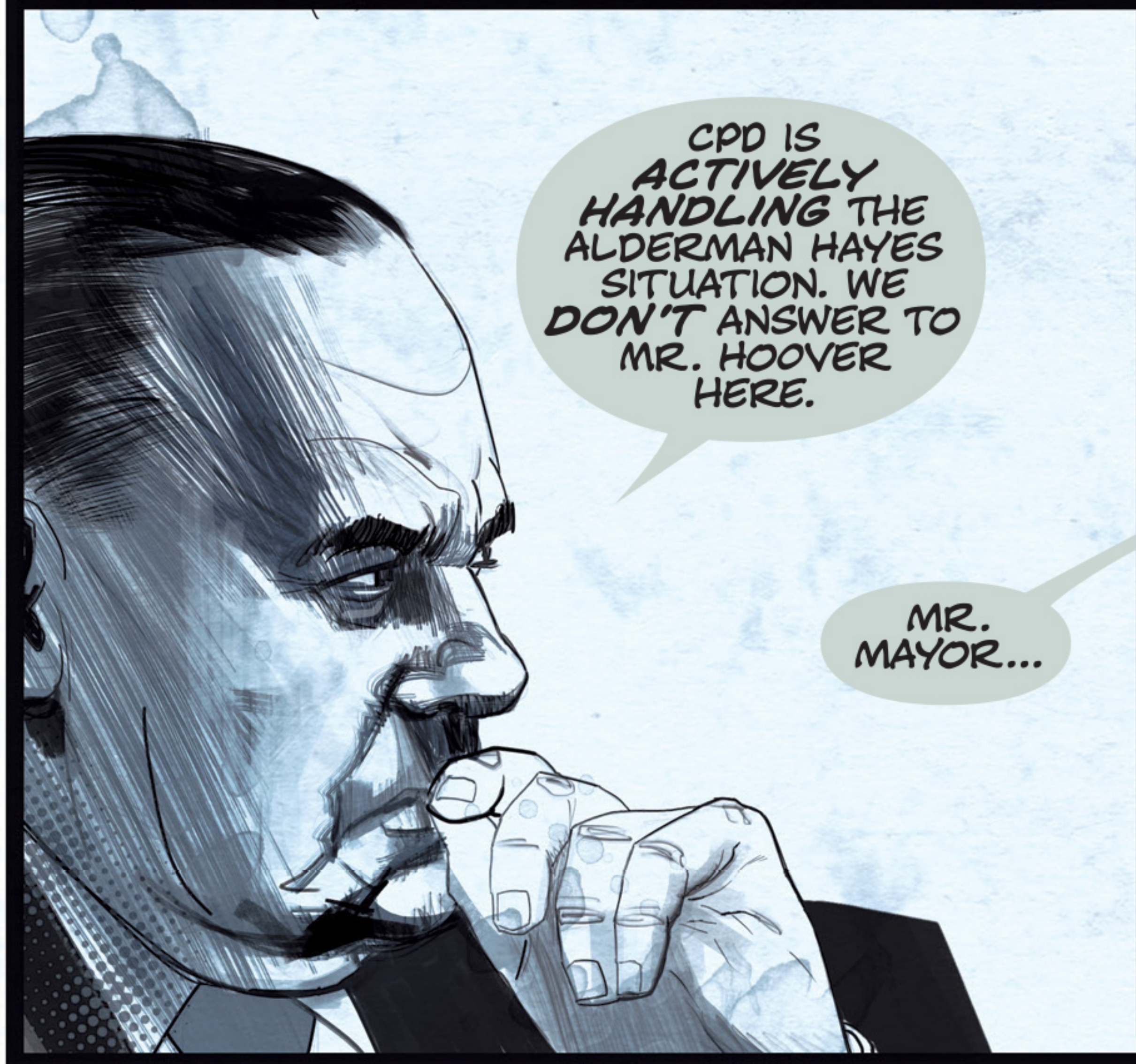
WHAT DID YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN WITH THIS STRIKE?



HEY, NO ONE CAN PROVE THESE... **ATTACKERS** WAITED UNTIL C.O.W.L. WENT ON STRIKE.



YOU CAN HAND WAVE TO US, BUT DIRECTOR HOOVER WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOUR PLAN IS. **ESPECIALLY** AS THE RANSOM DEADLINE--



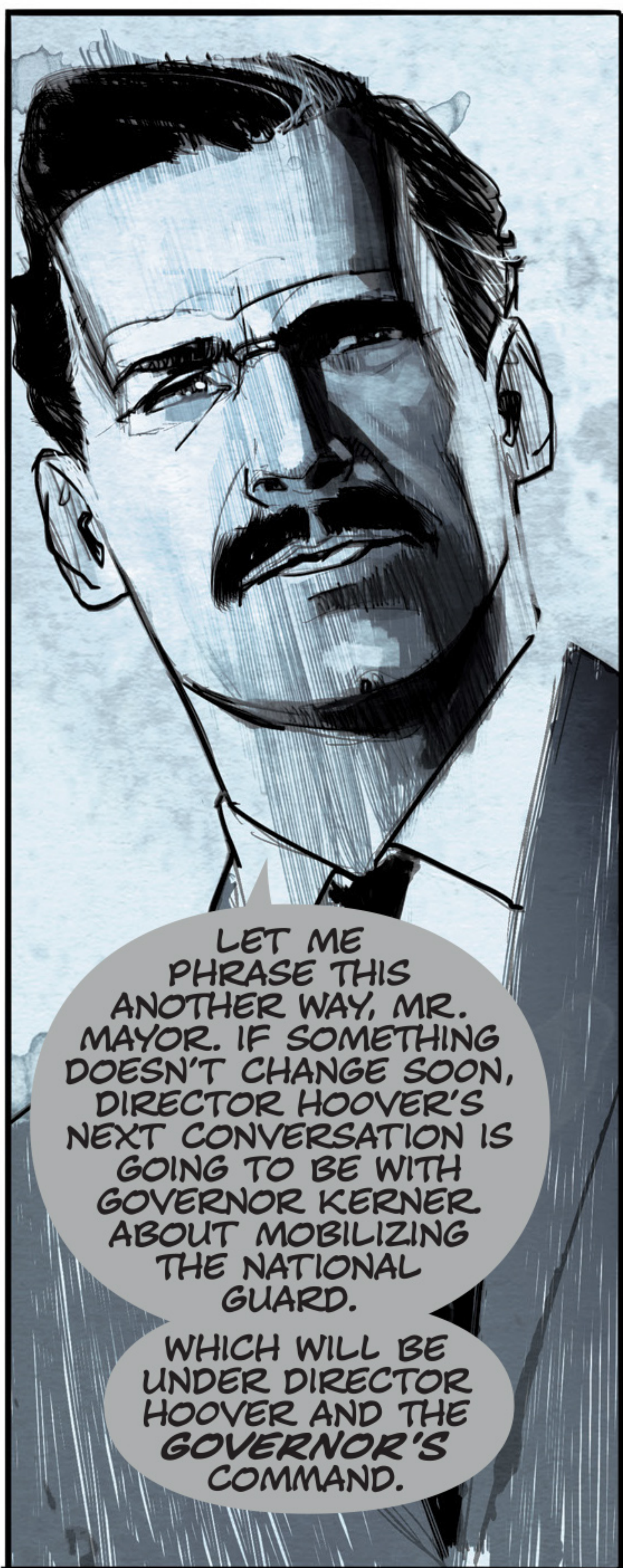
CPD IS **ACTIVELY** HANDLING THE ALDERMAN HAYES SITUATION. WE DON'T ANSWER TO MR. HOOVER HERE.

MR. MAYOR...



THAT WAS THE ELEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER. THE BRUTE WITH THE FORCEFIELD WAS SIGHTED IN EAST GARFIELD PARK. OFFICERS TRIED TO SUBDUED HIM, BUT HE CAUSED A PILEUP ON THE CONGRESS EXPRESSWAY BEFORE DISAPPEARING INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.





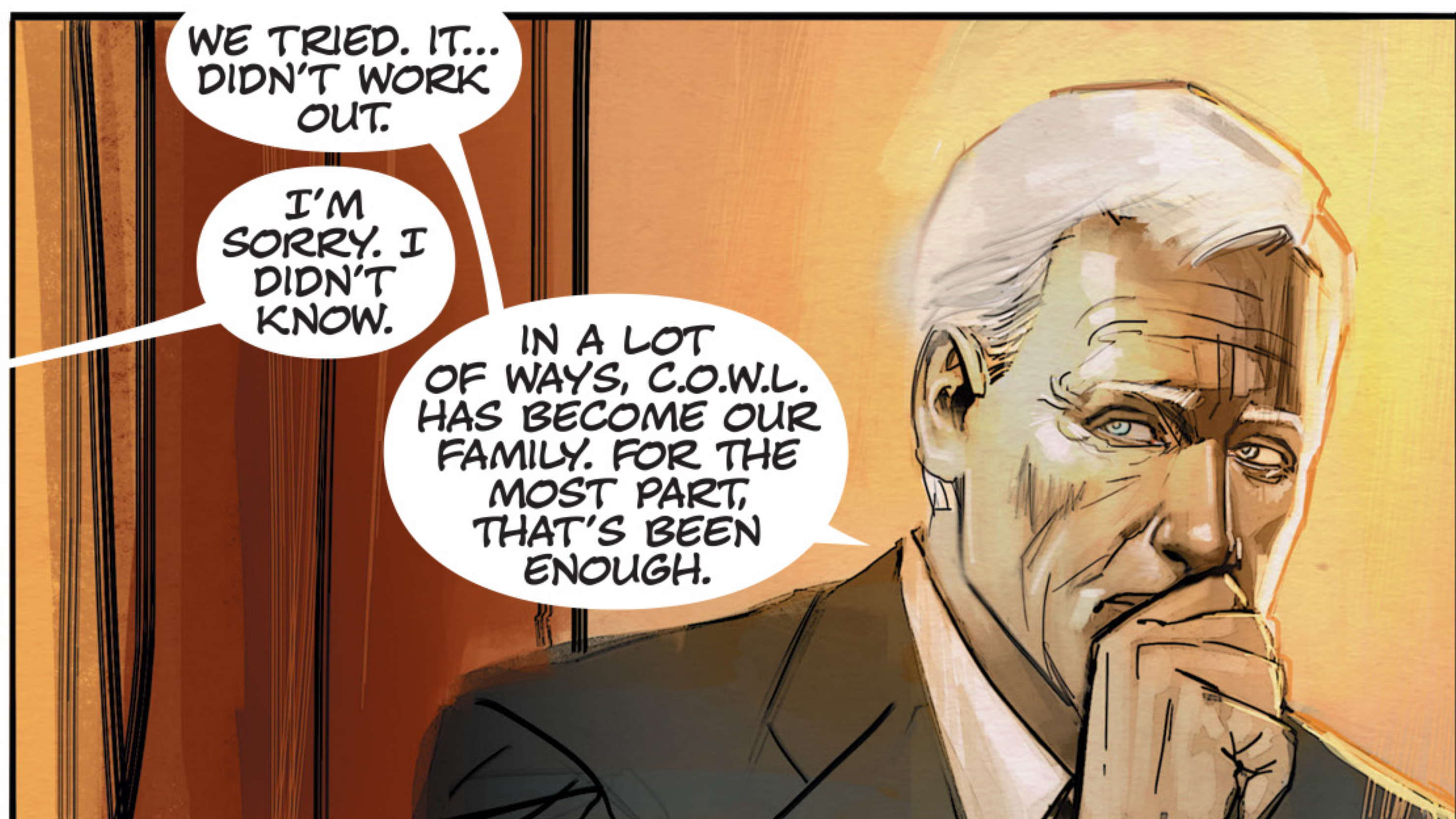
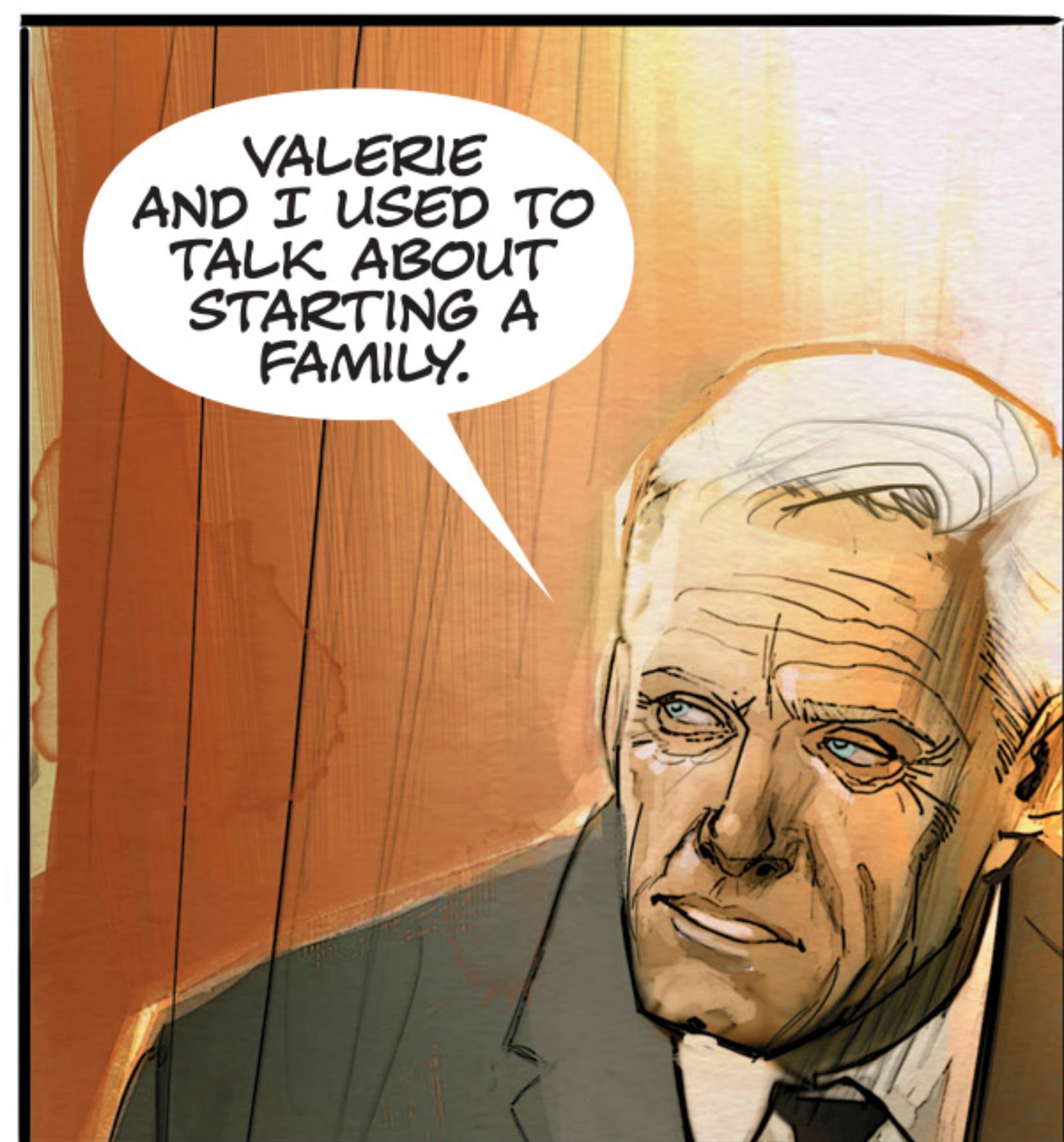
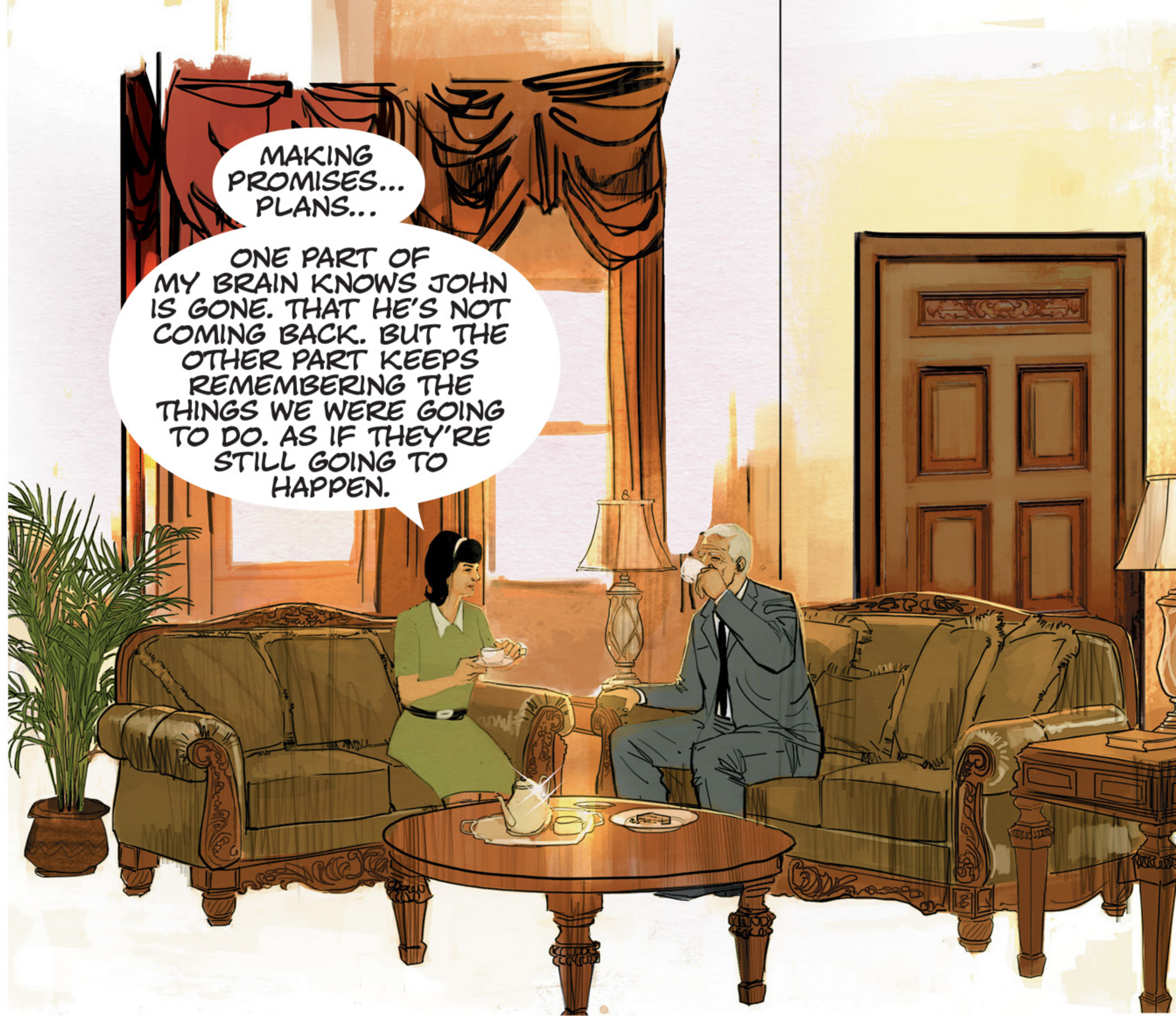
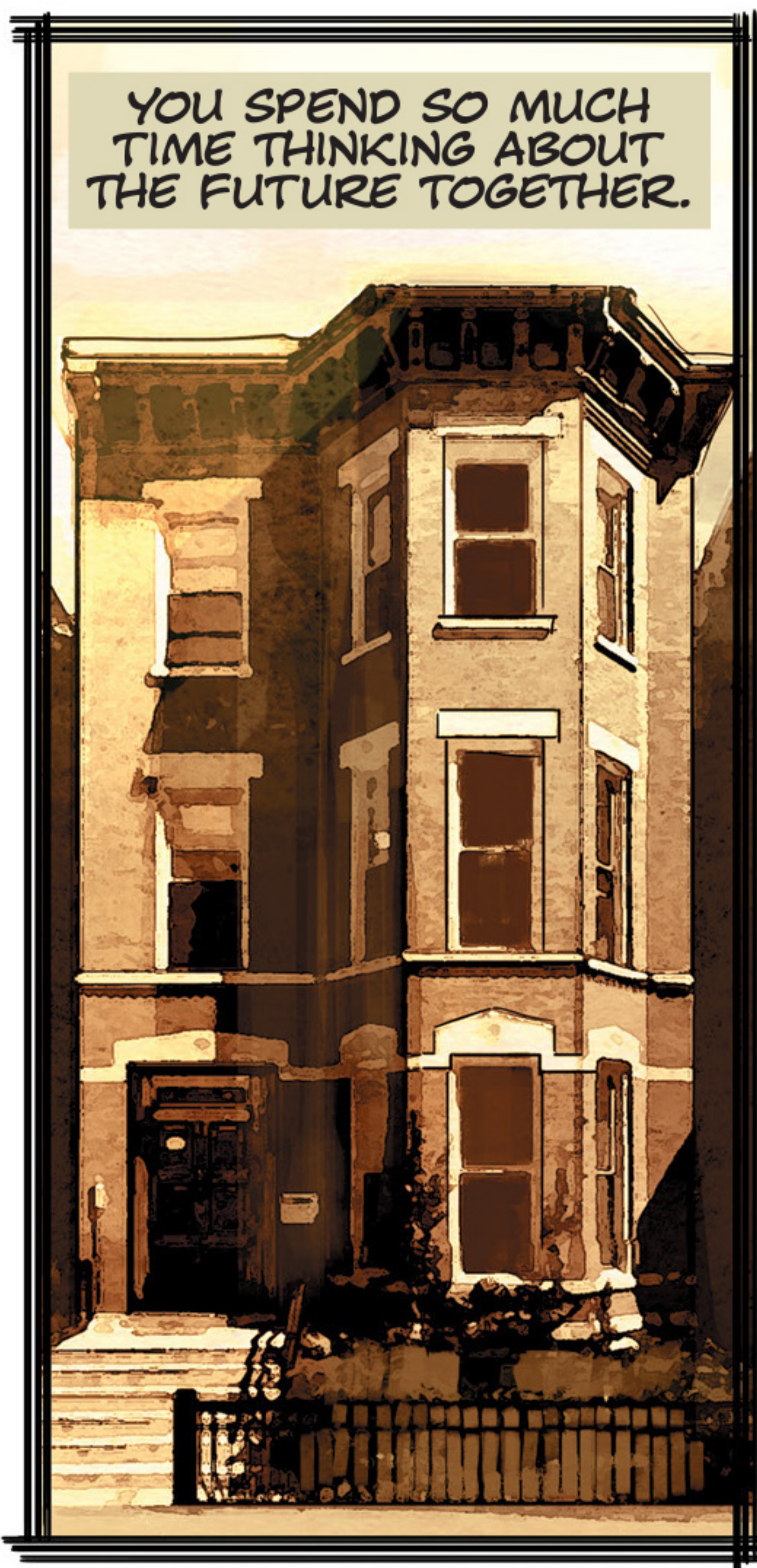




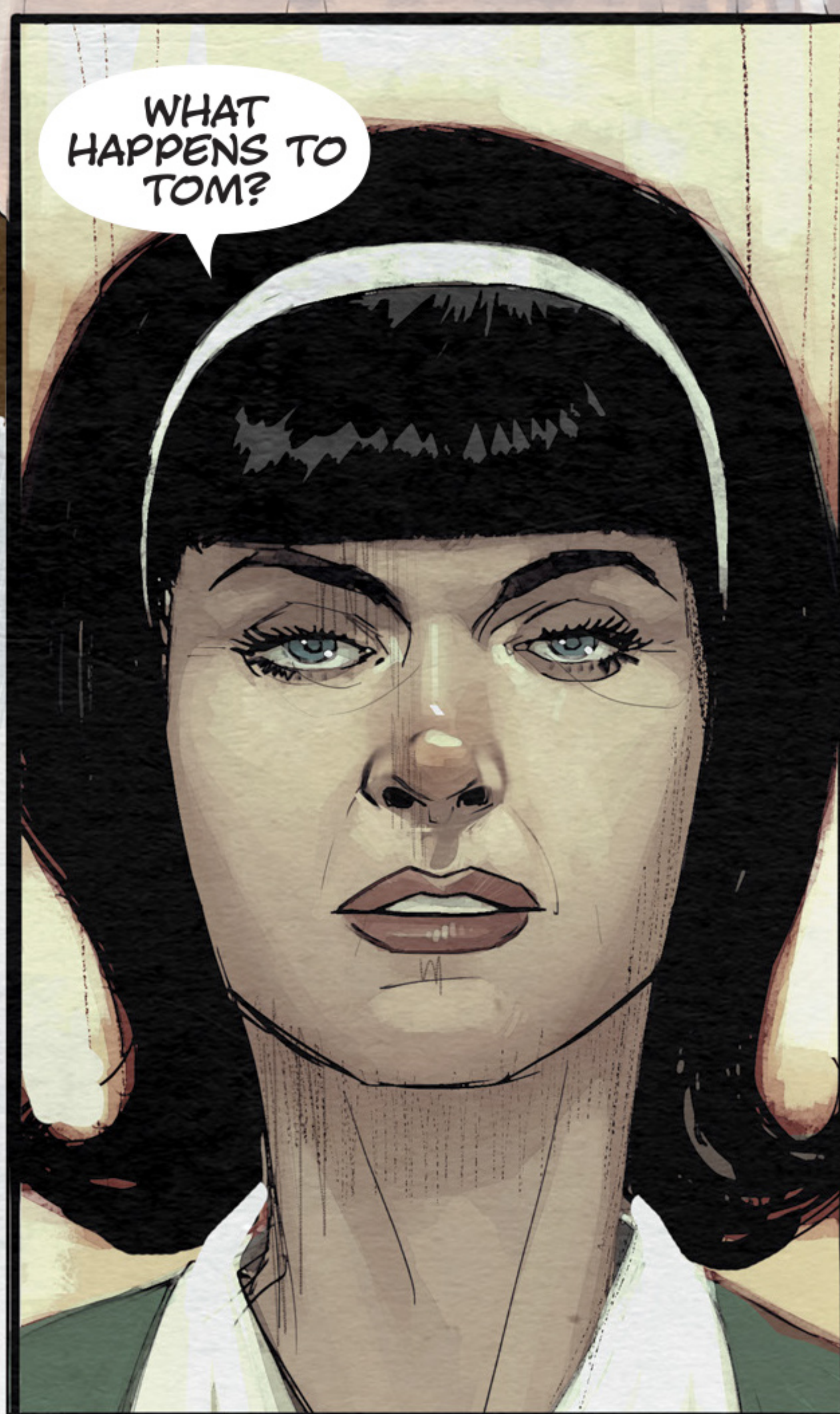
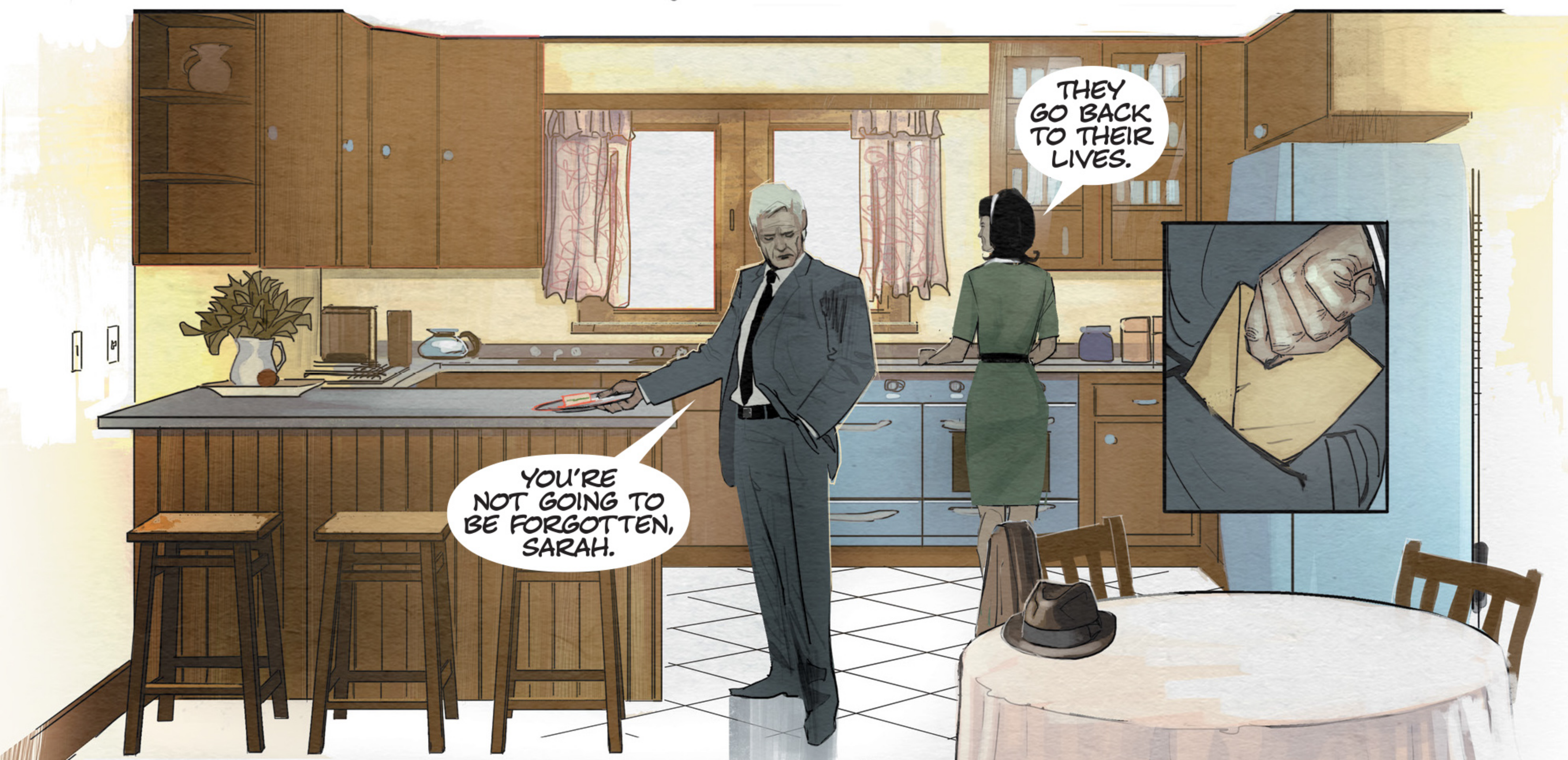
# CHAPTER 3

## The High Ground

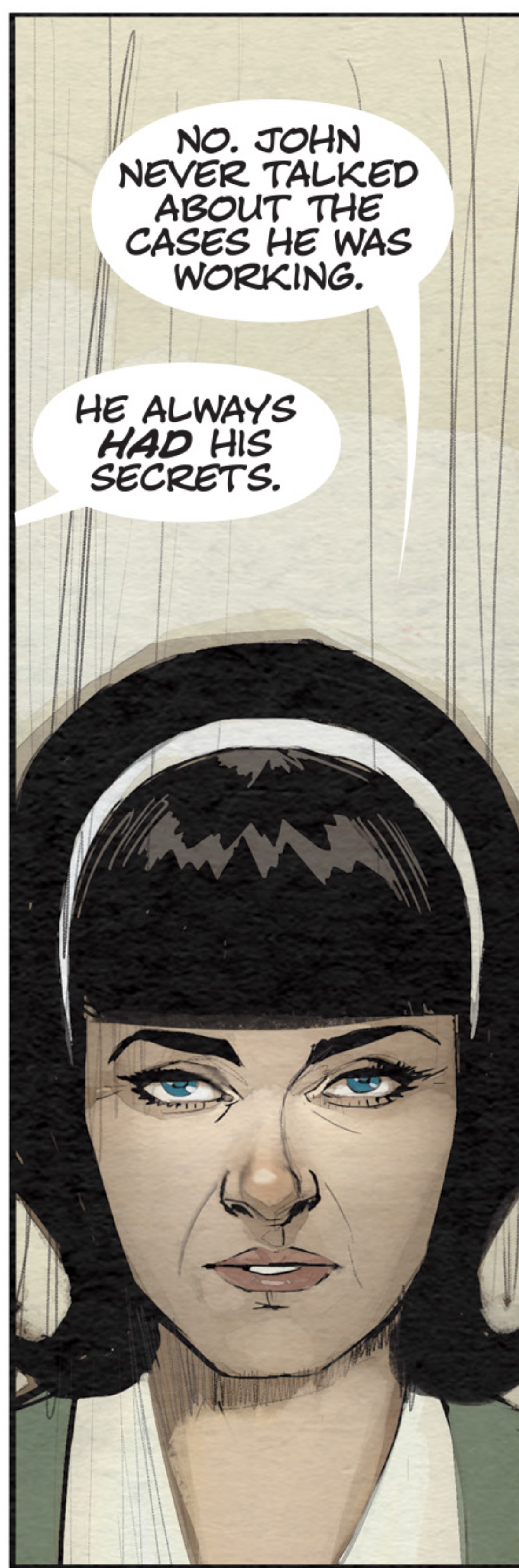
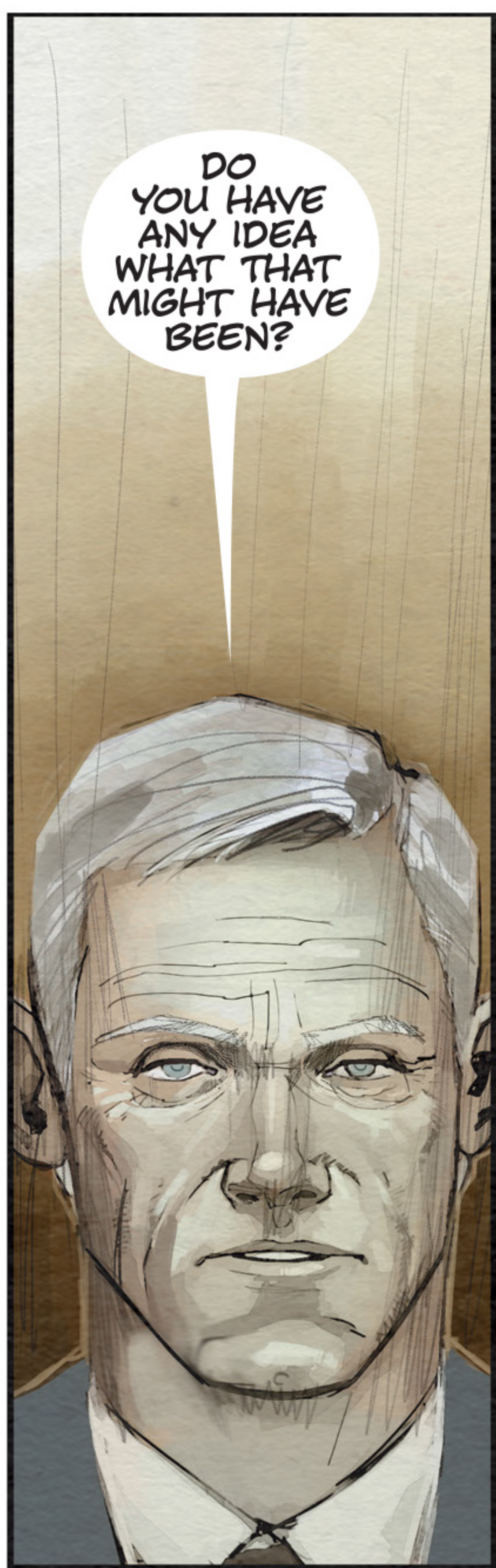




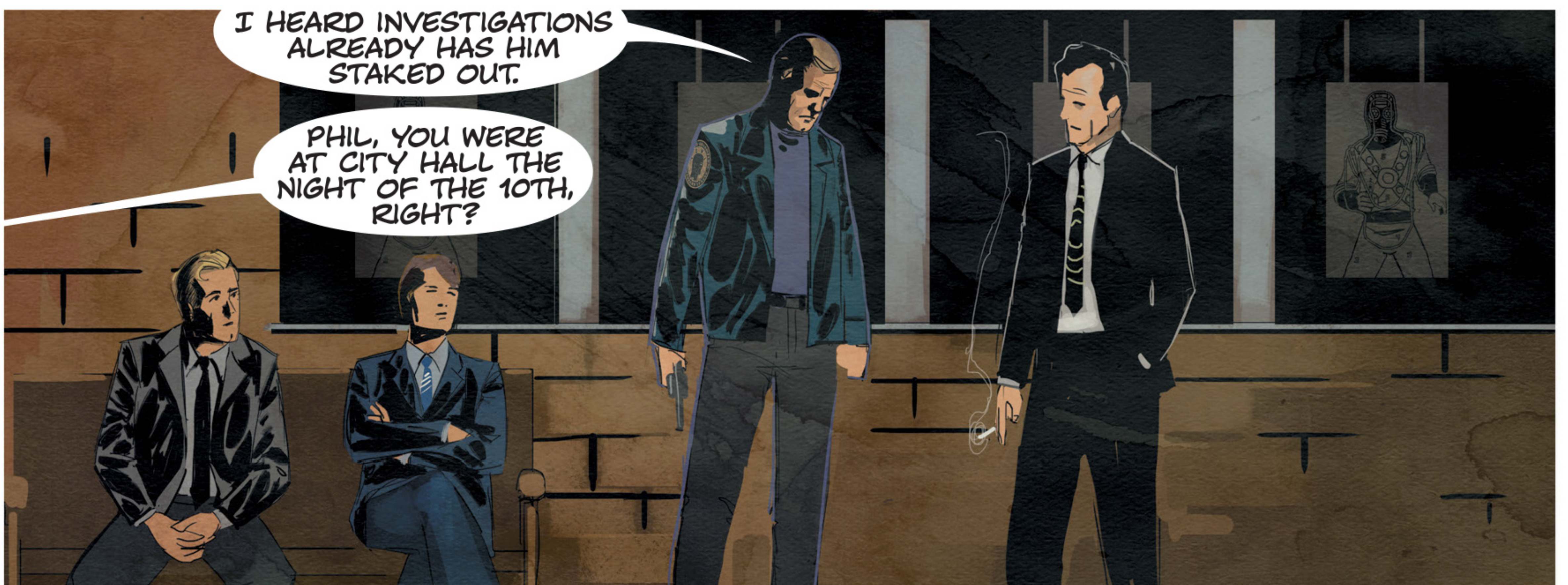
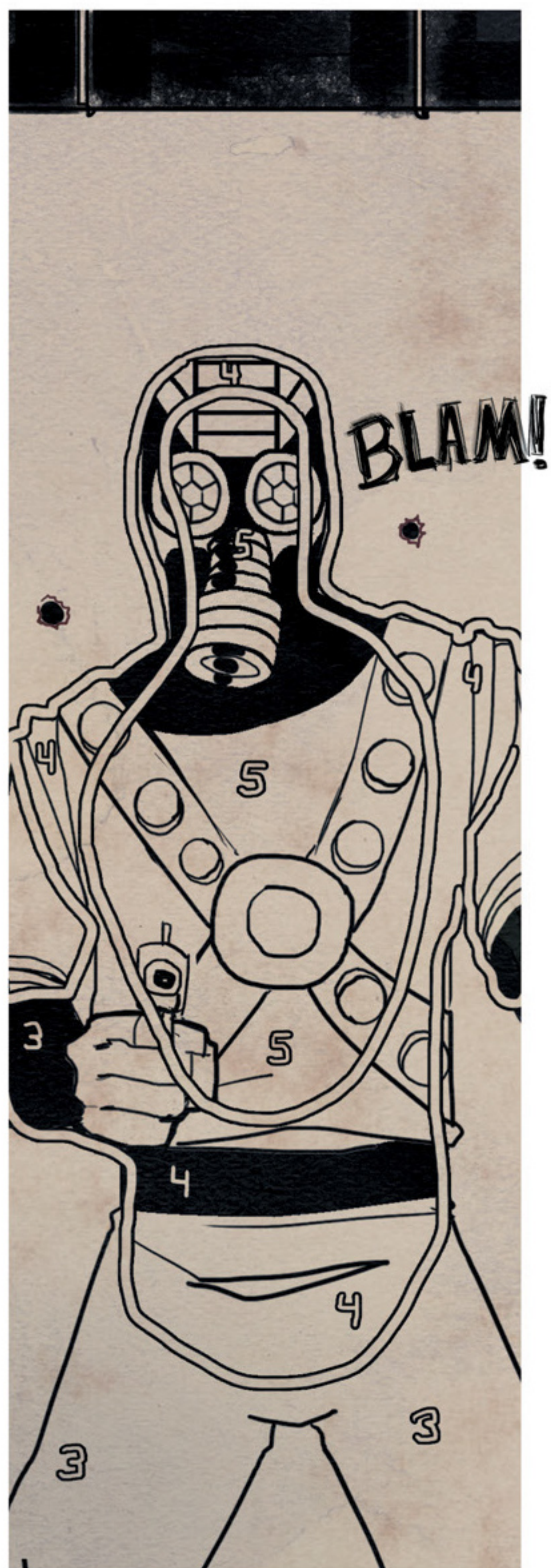
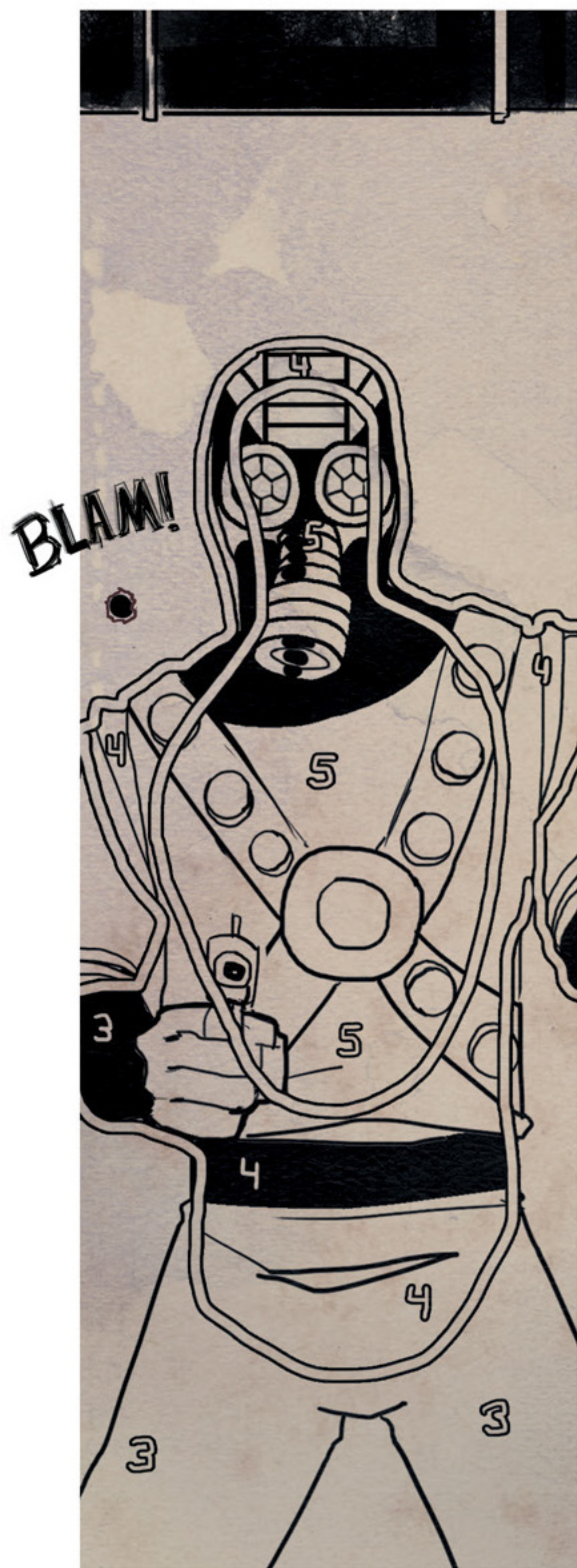












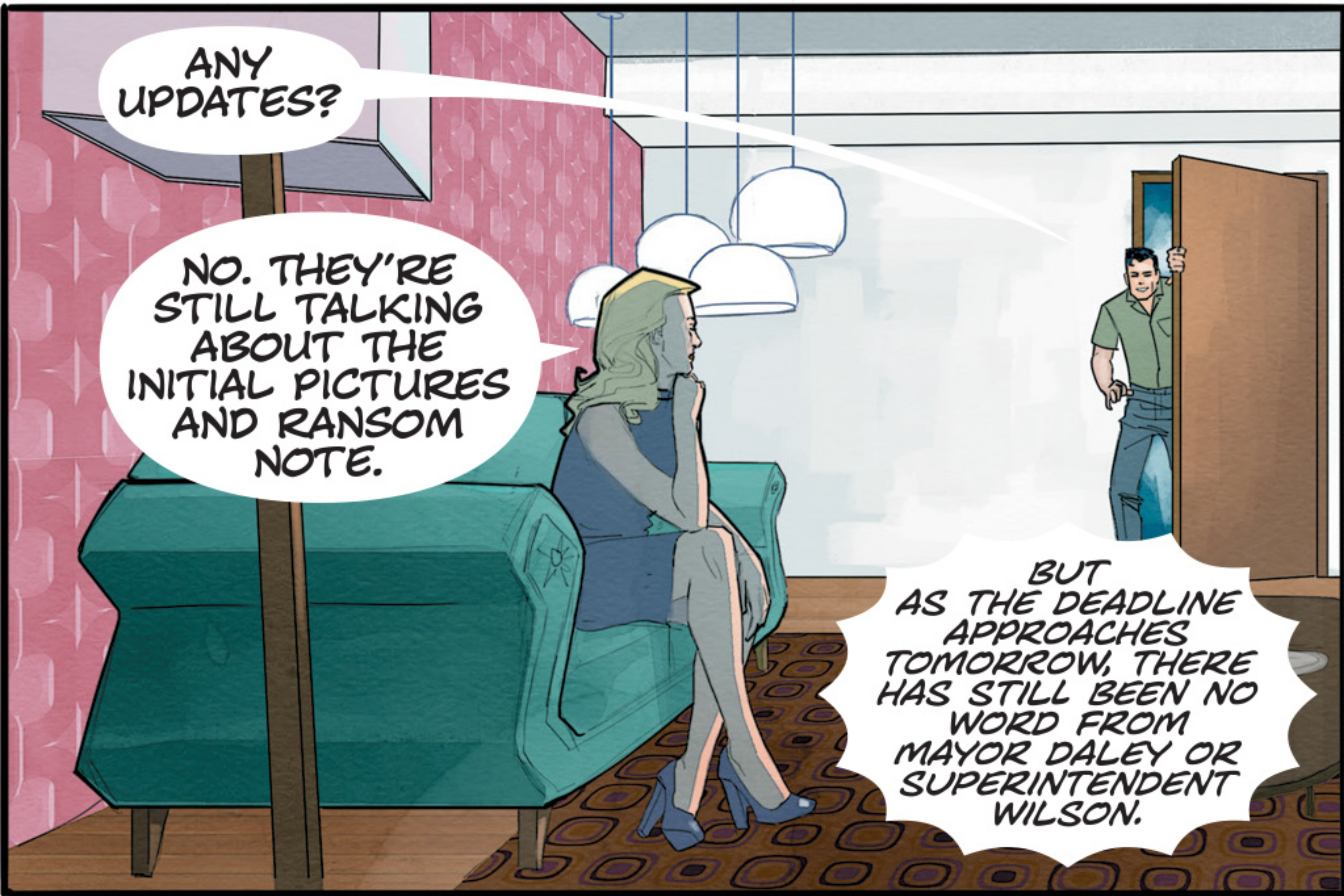








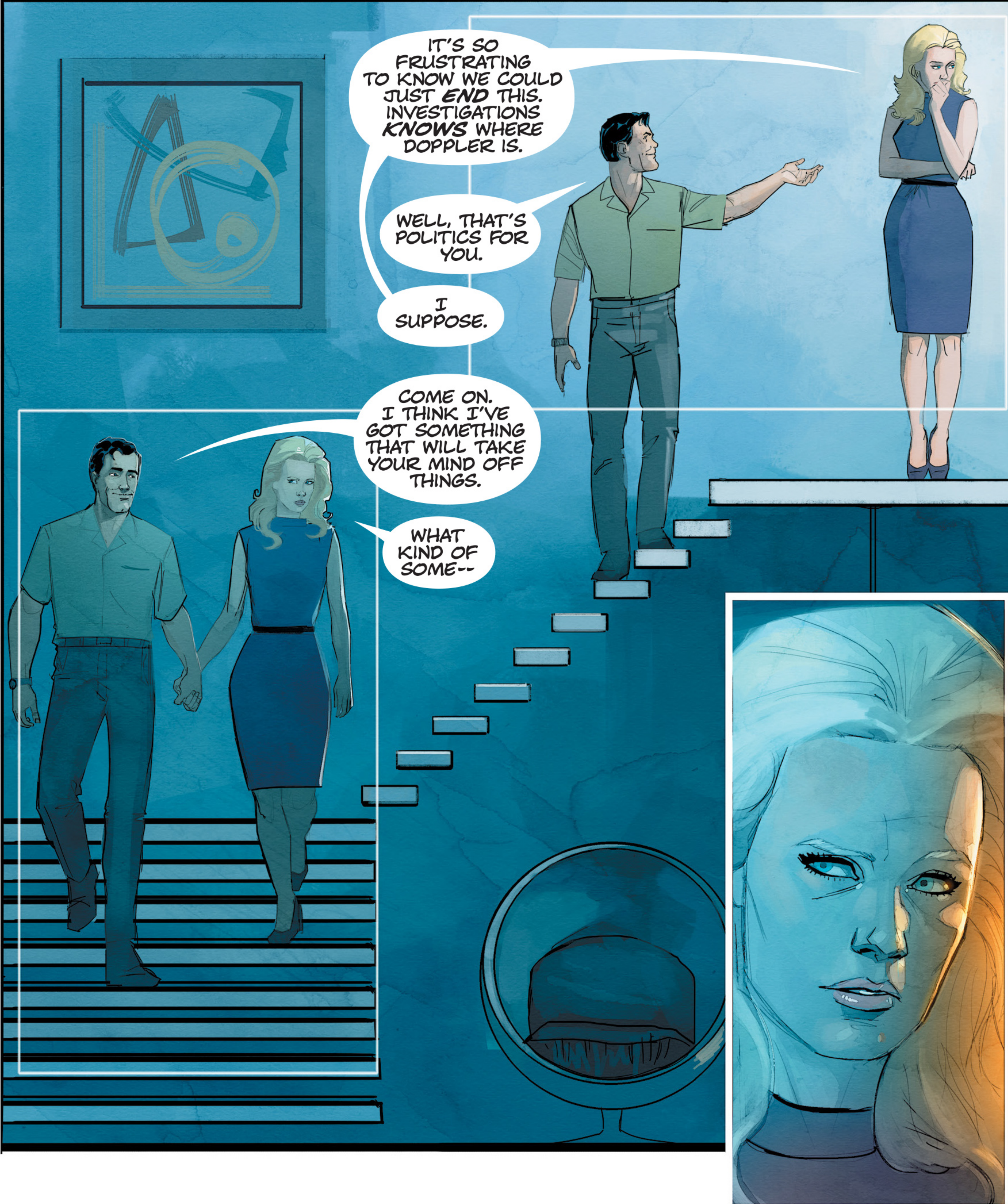
...WHILE THE KIDNAPPER, REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS DOPPLER, HAS MADE MONETARY DEMANDS.



ANY UPDATES?

NO. THEY'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THE INITIAL PICTURES AND RANSOM NOTE.

BUT AS THE DEADLINE APPROACHES TOMORROW, THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO WORD FROM MAYOR DALEY OR SUPERINTENDENT WILSON.



IT'S SO FRUSTRATING TO KNOW WE COULD JUST **END** THIS. INVESTIGATIONS **KNOWS** WHERE DOPPLER IS.

WELL, THAT'S POLITICS FOR YOU.

I SUPPOSE.

COME ON. I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT WILL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.

WHAT KIND OF SOME--





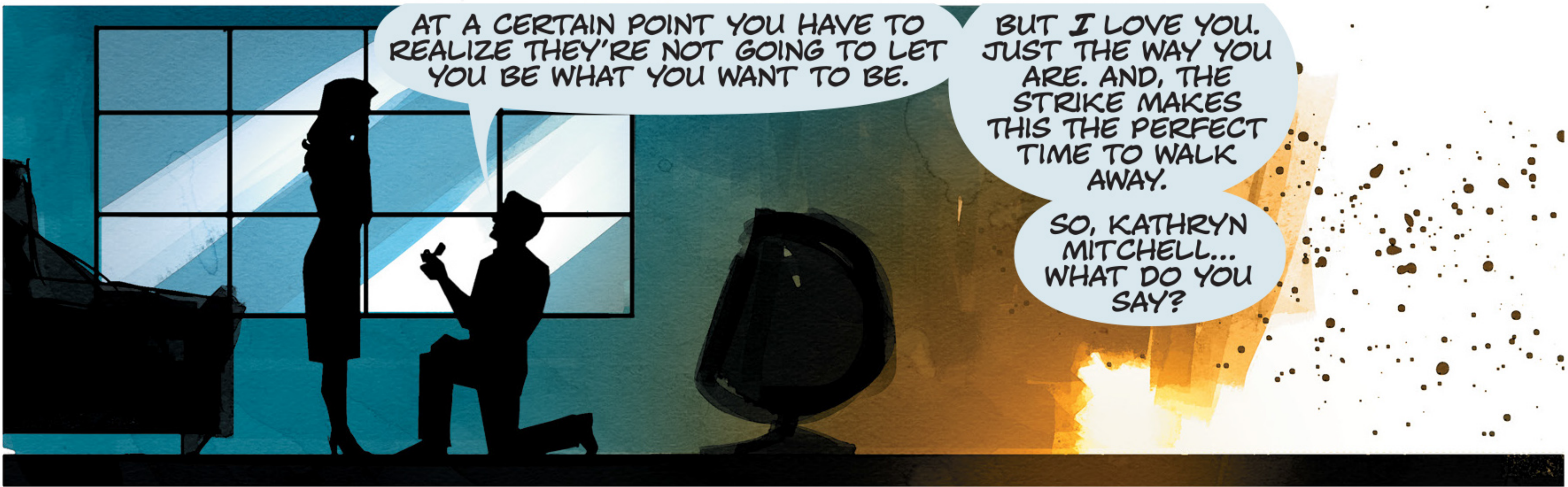
DAVID...

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN... HESITANT ABOUT MOVING THINGS FORWARD WITH US. BUT LET'S BE HONEST-- WE'RE ENTERING OUR PRIME YEARS HERE. AND IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A FAMILY...



DAVID...

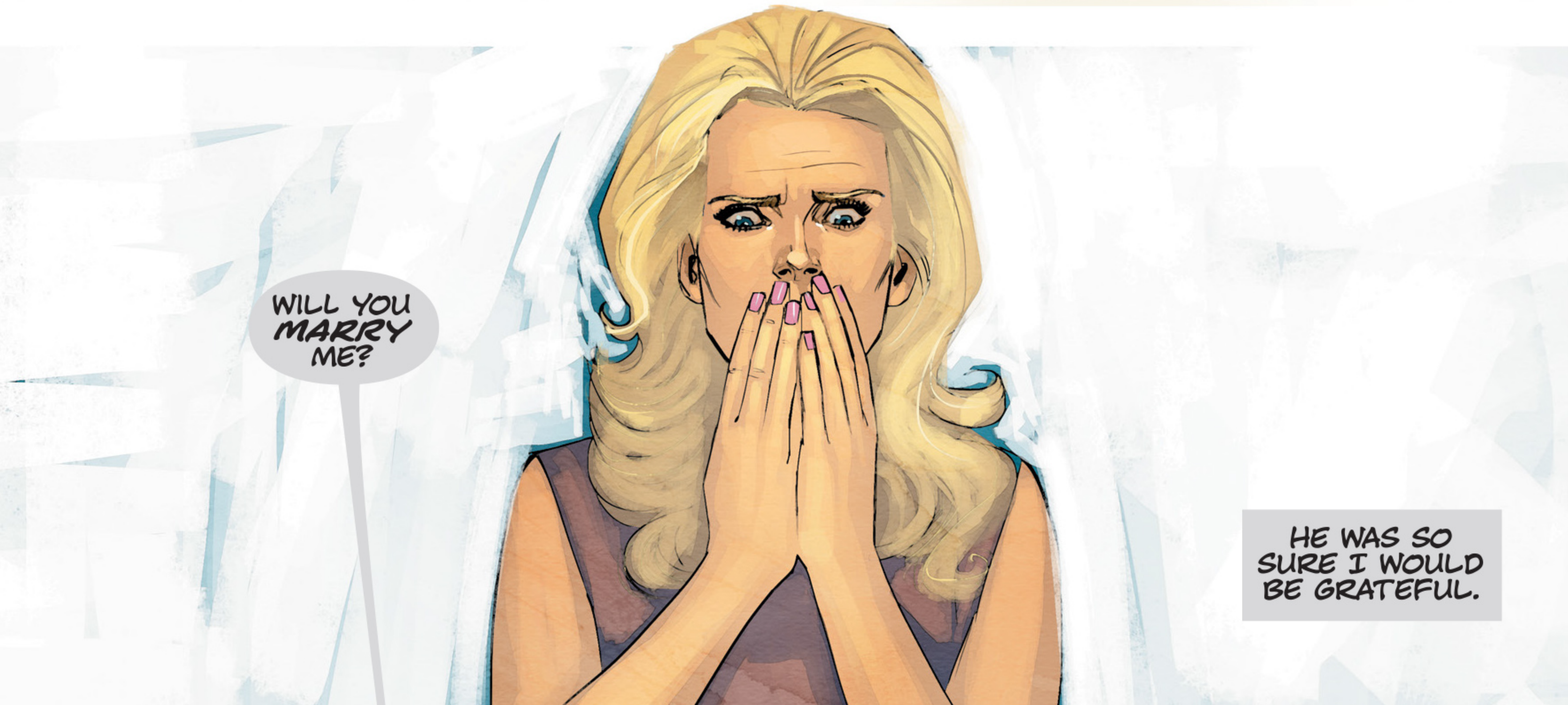
YOU'RE MISERABLE AT THAT PLACE. I CAN TELL. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ANYMORE. I MAKE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.



AT A CERTAIN POINT YOU HAVE TO REALIZE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE.

BUT I LOVE YOU. JUST THE WAY YOU ARE. AND, THE STRIKE MAKES THIS THE PERFECT TIME TO WALK AWAY.

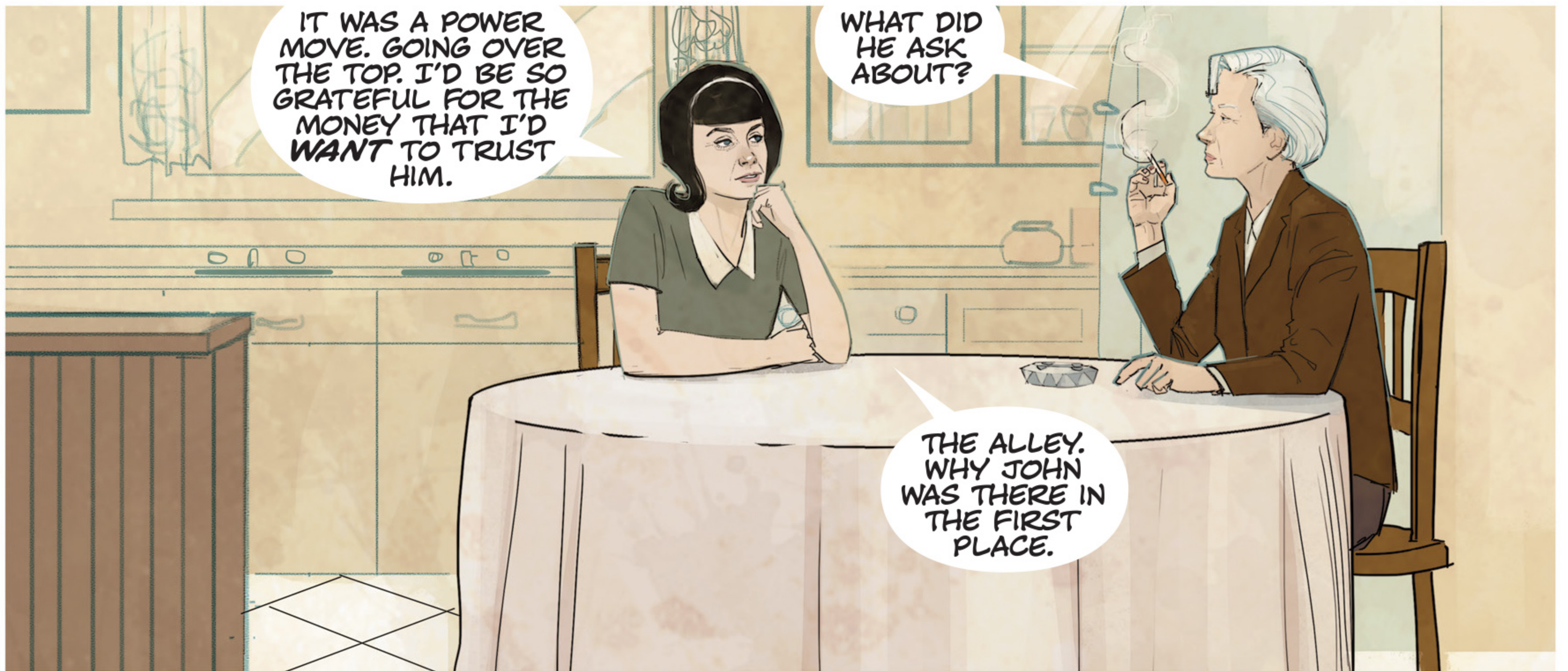
SO, KATHRYN MITCHELL... WHAT DO YOU SAY?



WILL YOU MARRY ME?

HE WAS SO SURE I WOULD BE GRATEFUL.







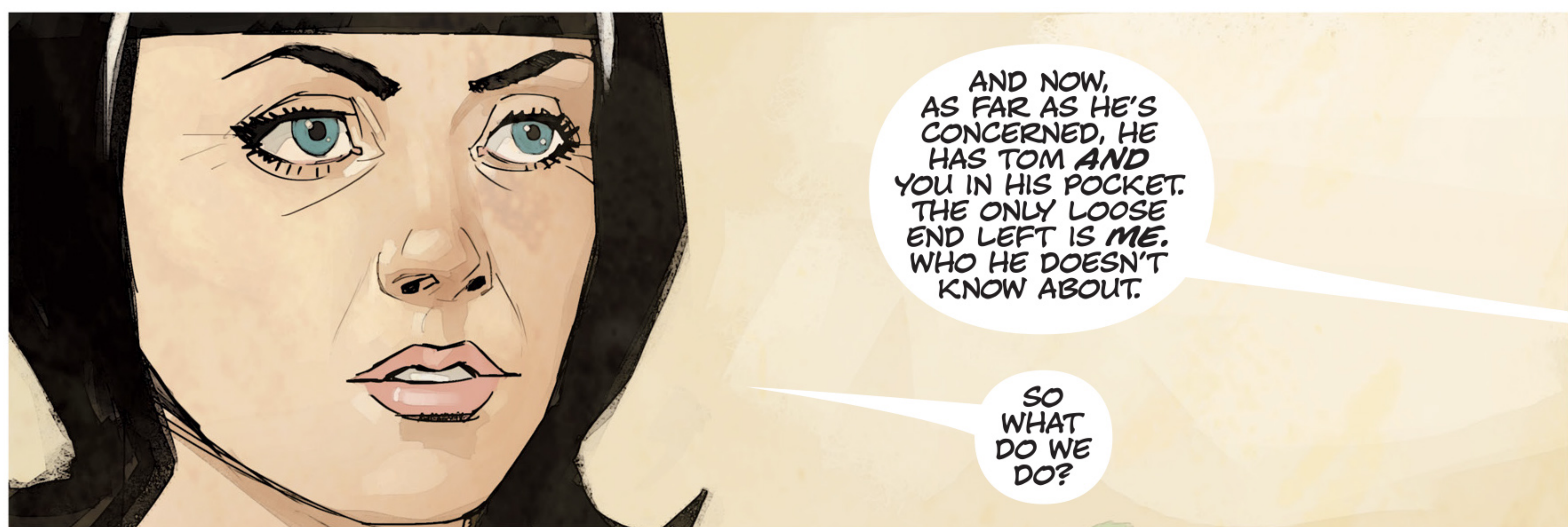


GEOFFREY KNOWS JOHN WAS A PART OF THE CHICAGO SIX. HE CAN LEAK THAT INFORMATION WITHOUT REVEALING IT WAS PART OF A CIA MISSION.

IT WOULD BE A TOTAL CHARACTER ASSASSINATION.



NO. THERE'D BE TOO MUCH BLOWBACK. GEOFFREY DOESN'T WANT THAT. HE WANTS TO WRAP THIS ALL UP.



AND NOW, AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, HE HAS TOM AND YOU IN HIS POCKET. THE ONLY LOOSE END LEFT IS ME, WHO HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?



WE HAVE TO GET TOM TO TURN.

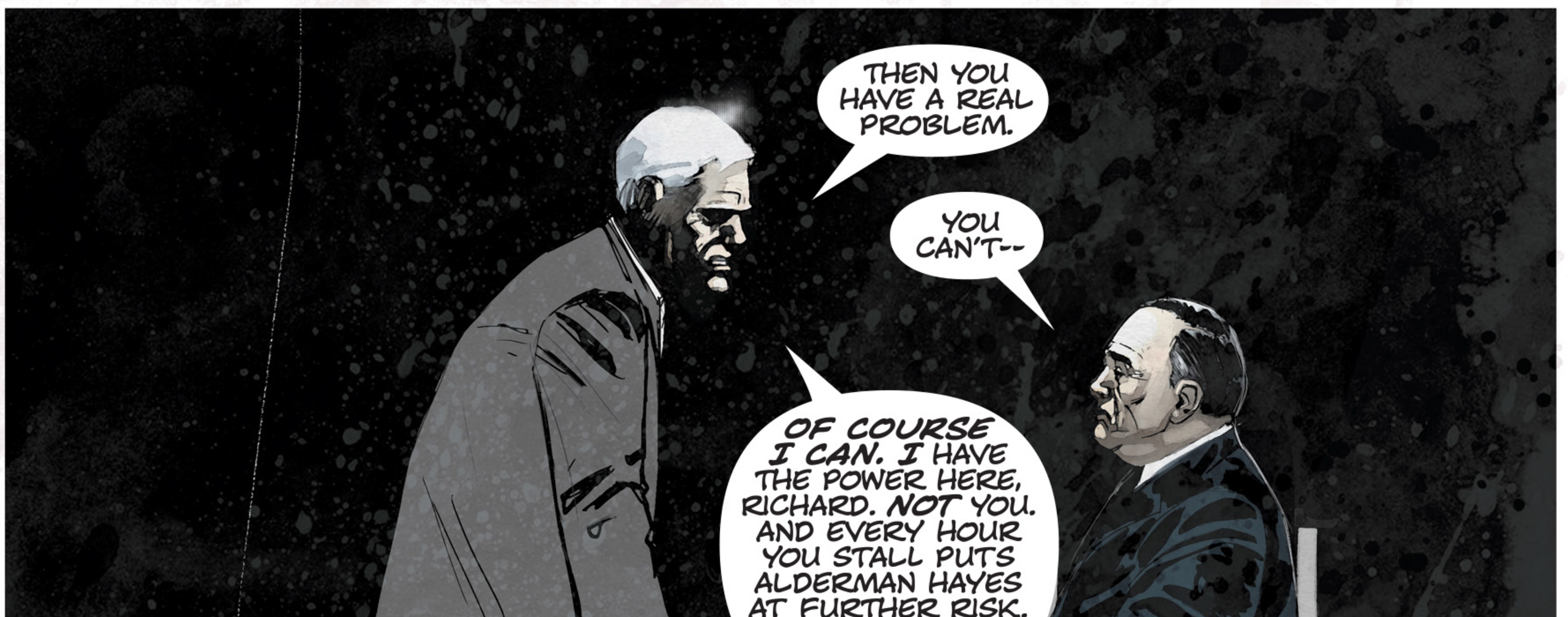
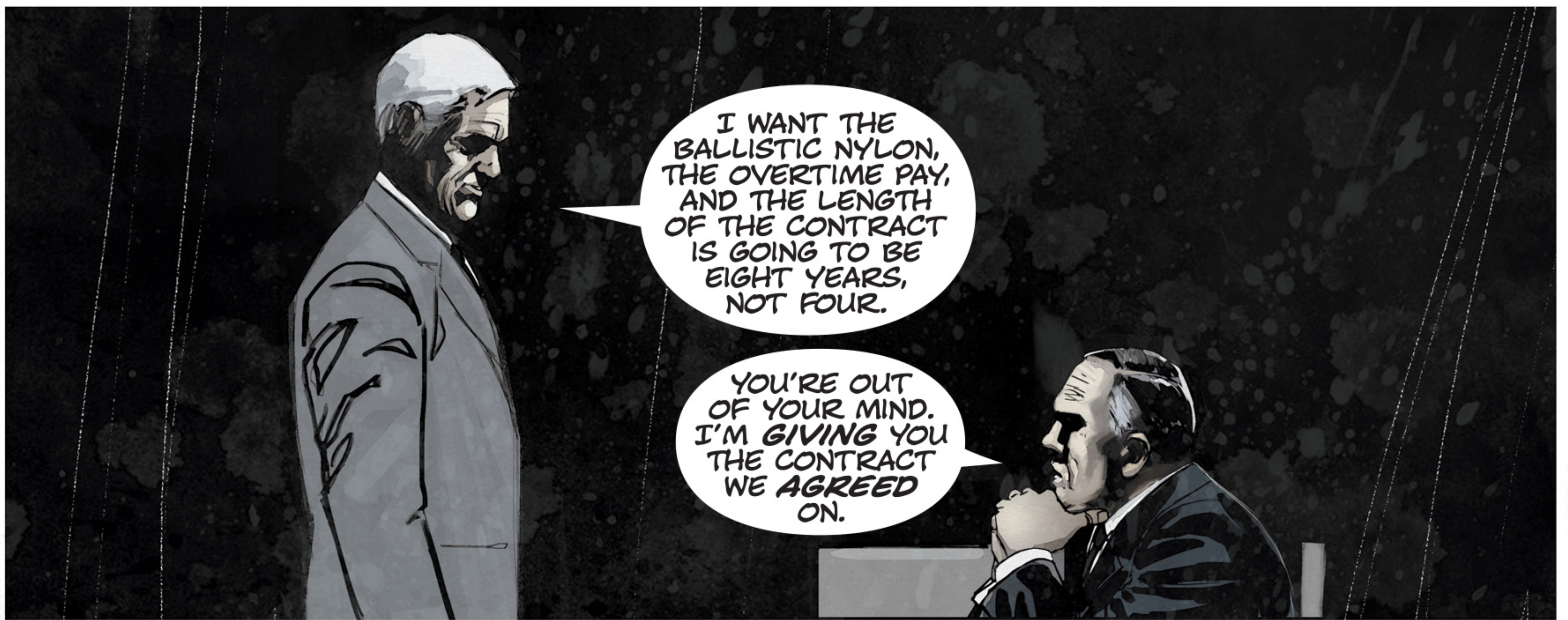
AND IF WE CAN'T?











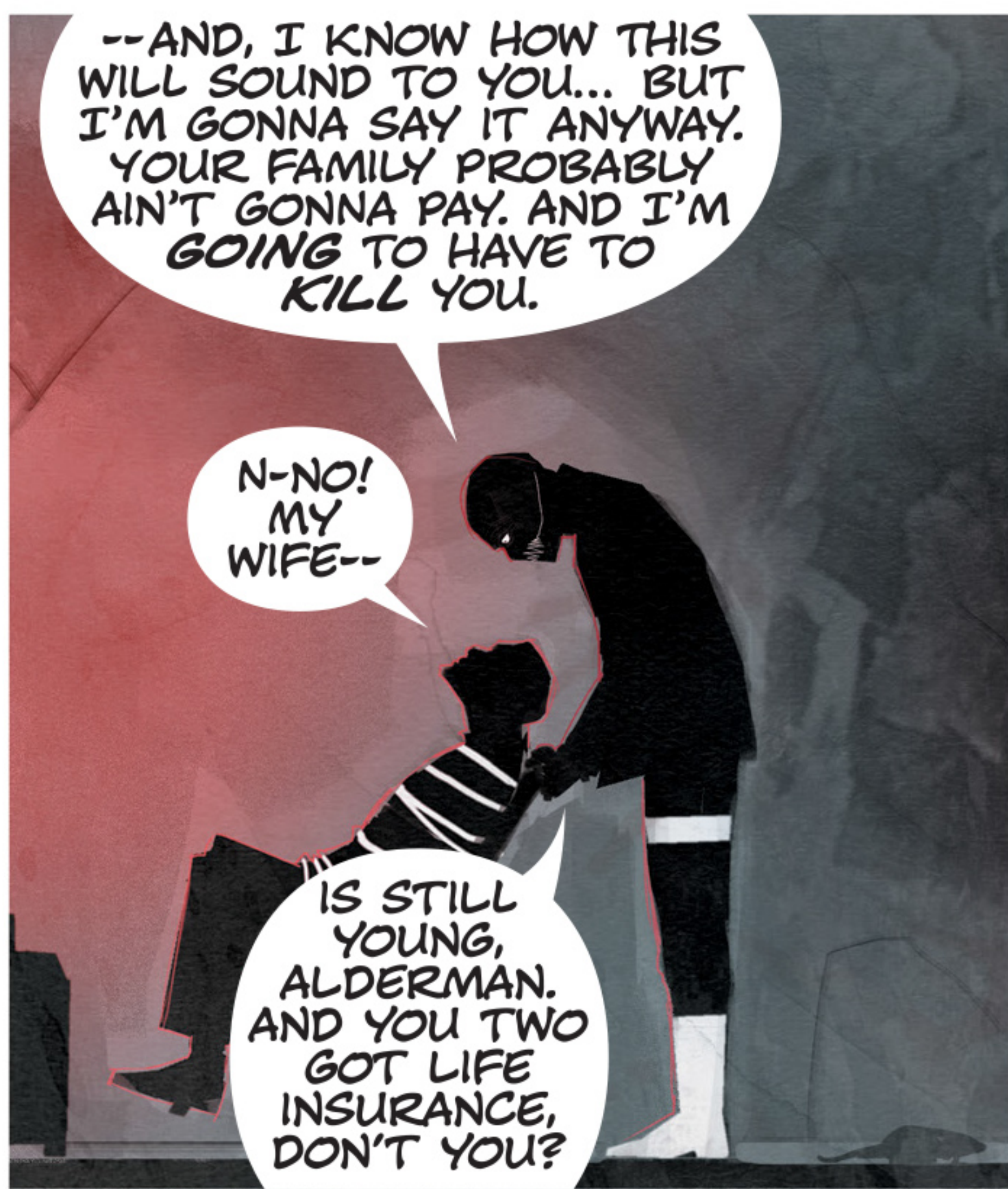


SSSSSCREEEEEE



...IS IN YOUR HANDS.

KACHUNK KACHUNK KACHUNK



--AND, I KNOW HOW THIS WILL SOUND TO YOU... BUT I'M GONNA SAY IT ANYWAY. YOUR FAMILY PROBABLY AIN'T GONNA PAY. AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.

N-NO! MY WIFE--

IS STILL YOUNG, ALDERMAN. AND YOU TWO GOT LIFE INSURANCE, DON'T YOU?



SHE PLAYS THIS RIGHT, SHE CAN MAKE A PRETTY NICE PENNY. COULD YOU REALLY FAULT HER FOR THAT?



I-- I...



THE HELL!





OH THANK  
**GOD!**



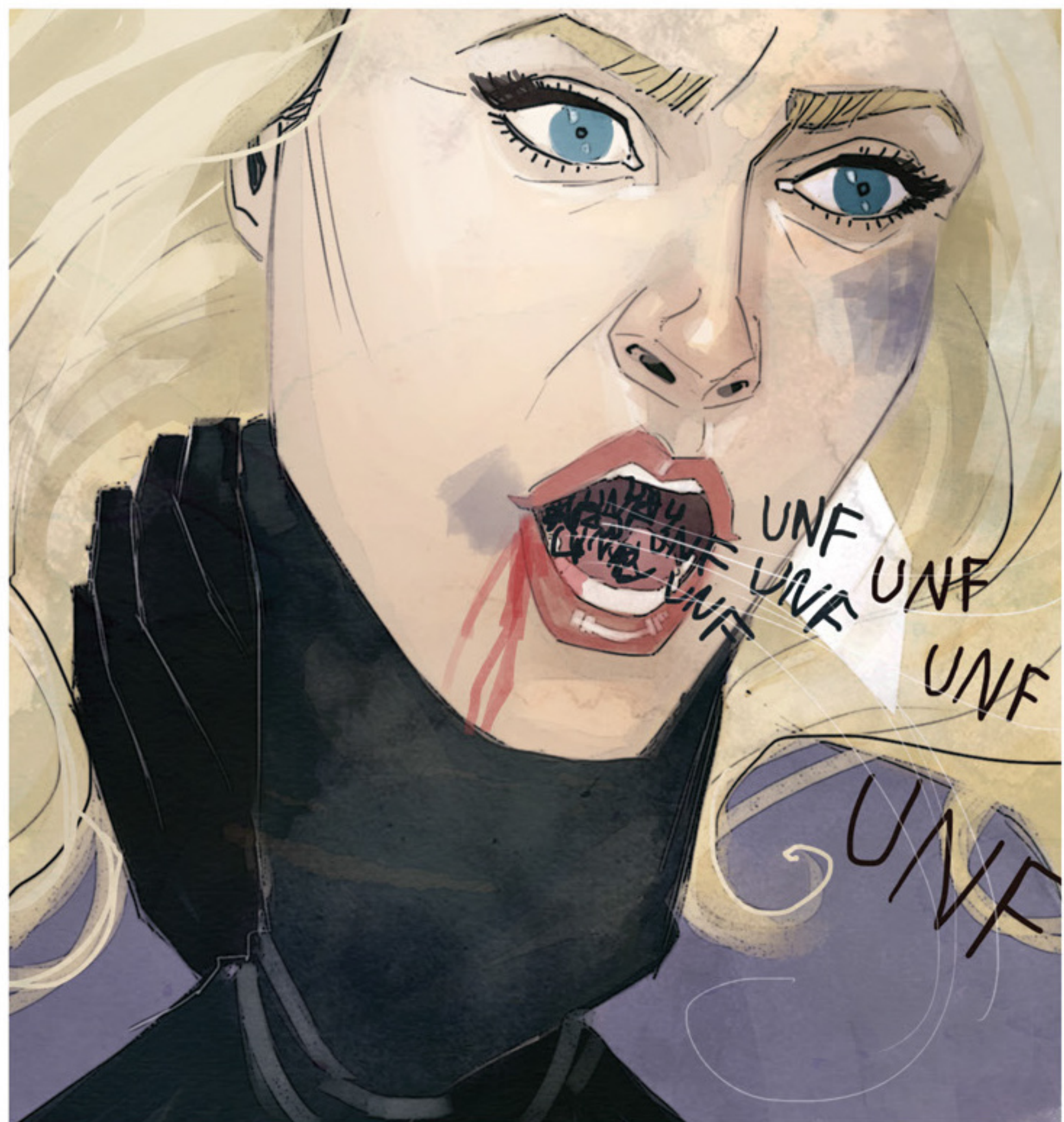
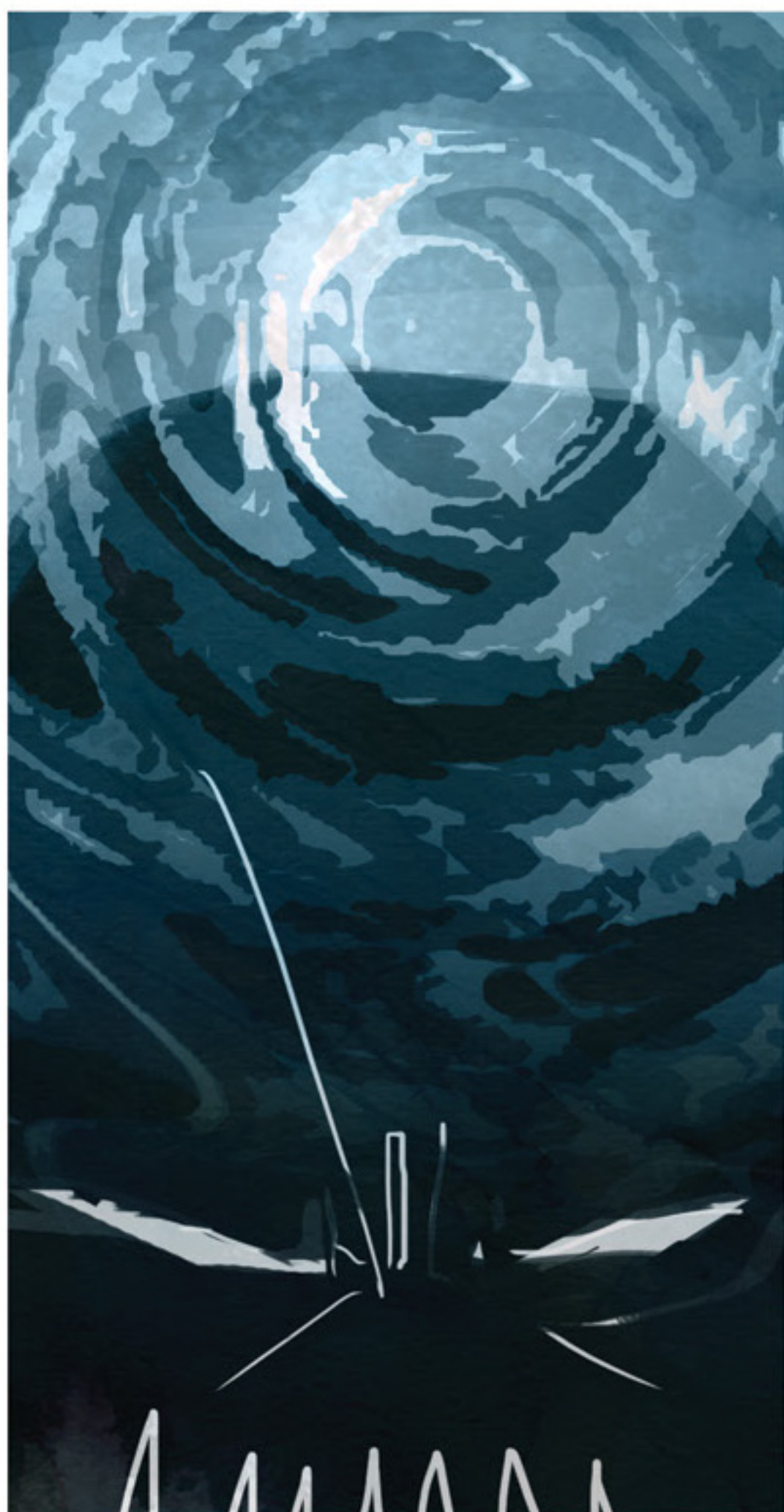
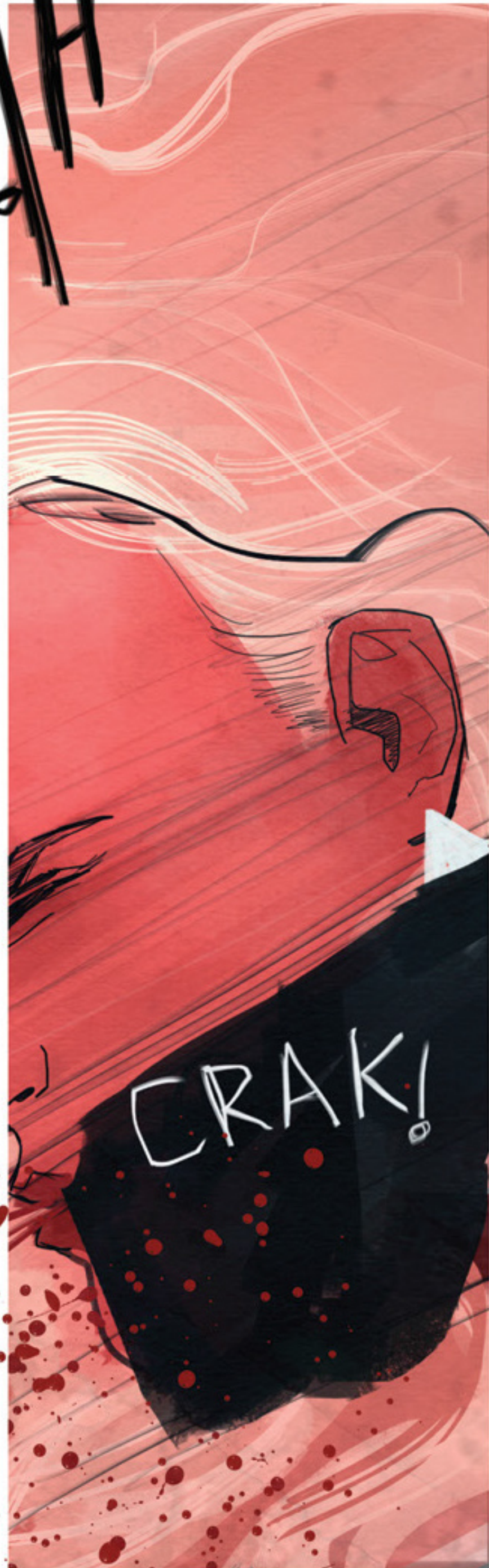
**KACHUNK KACHUNK KACHUNK**



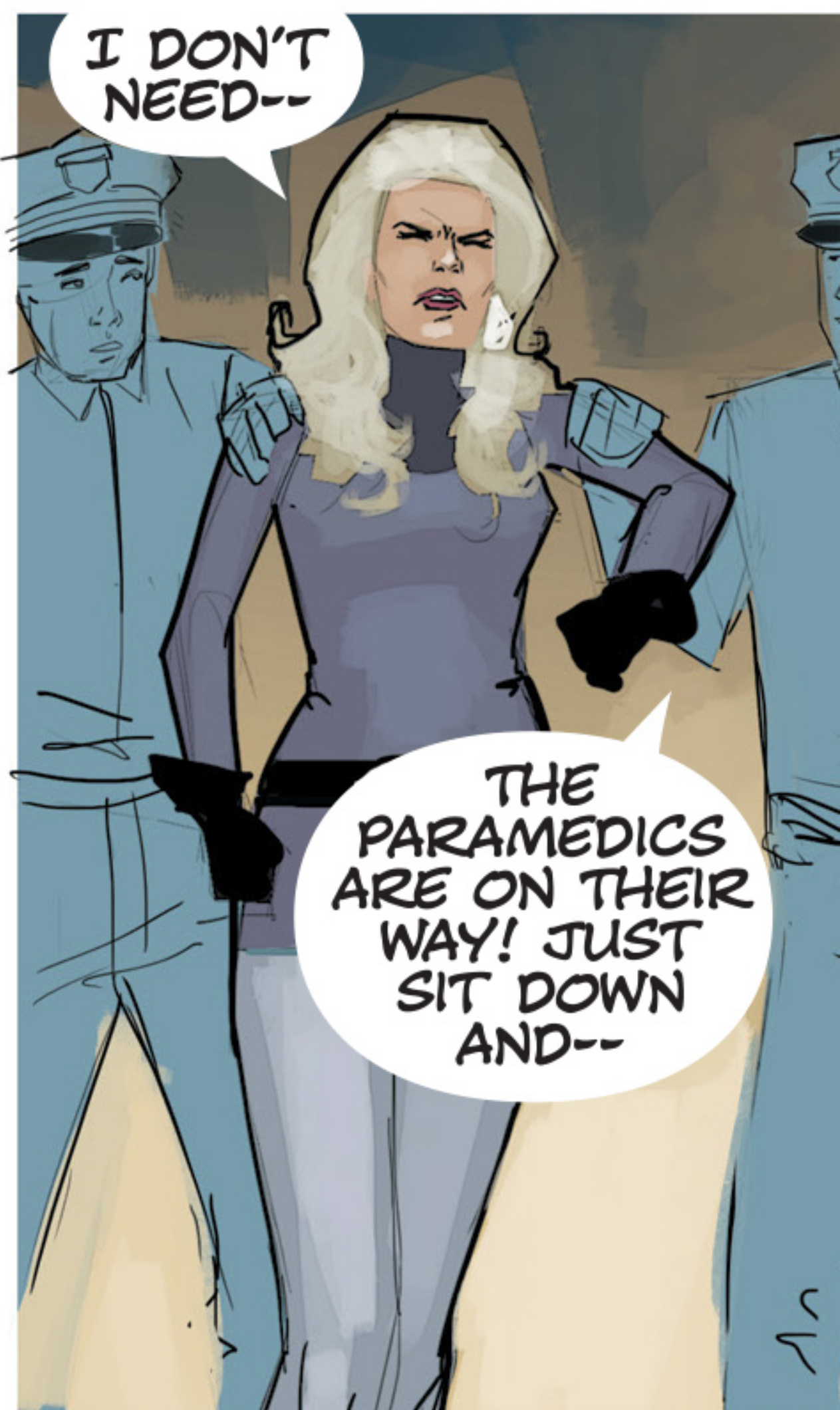
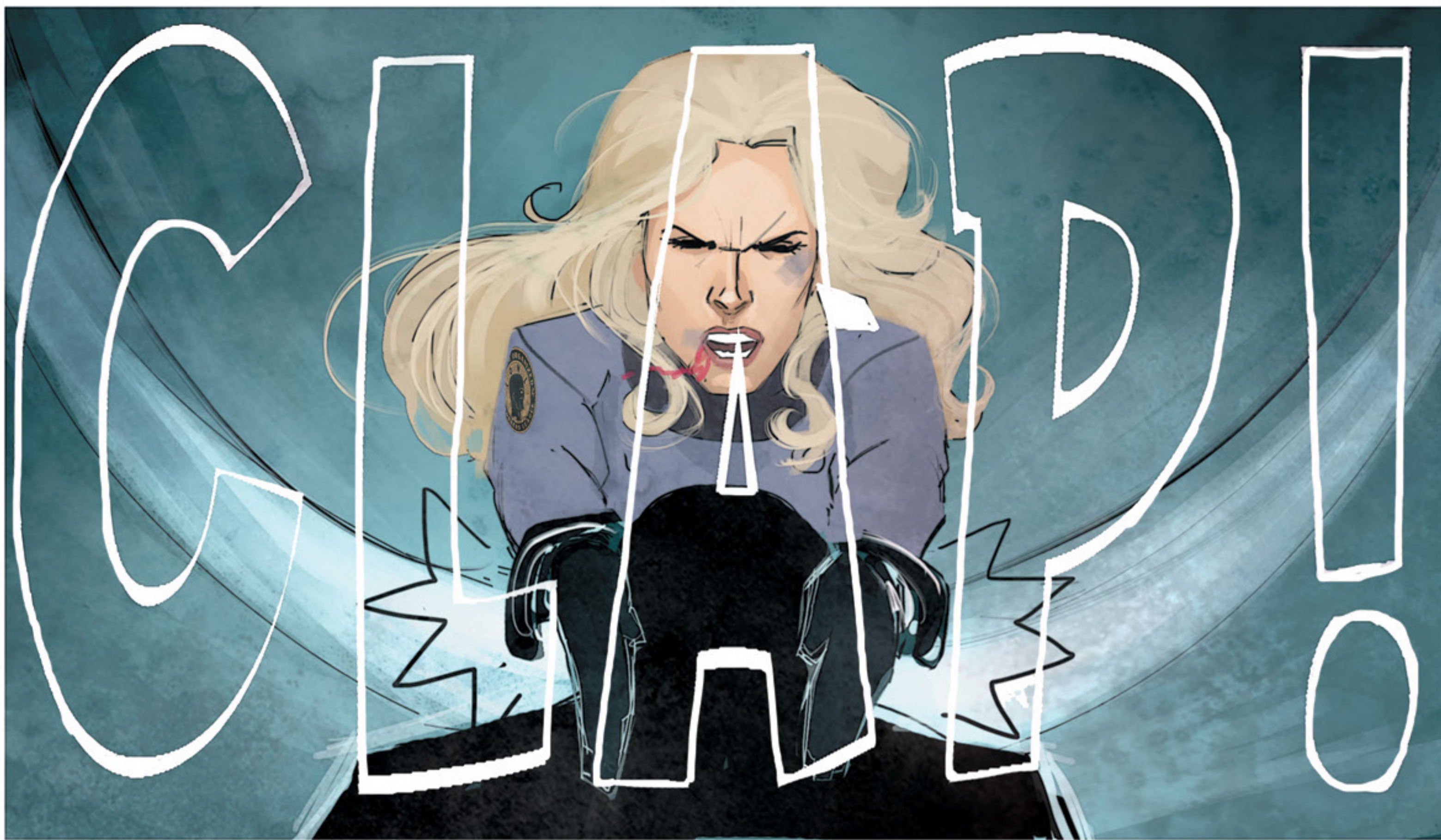














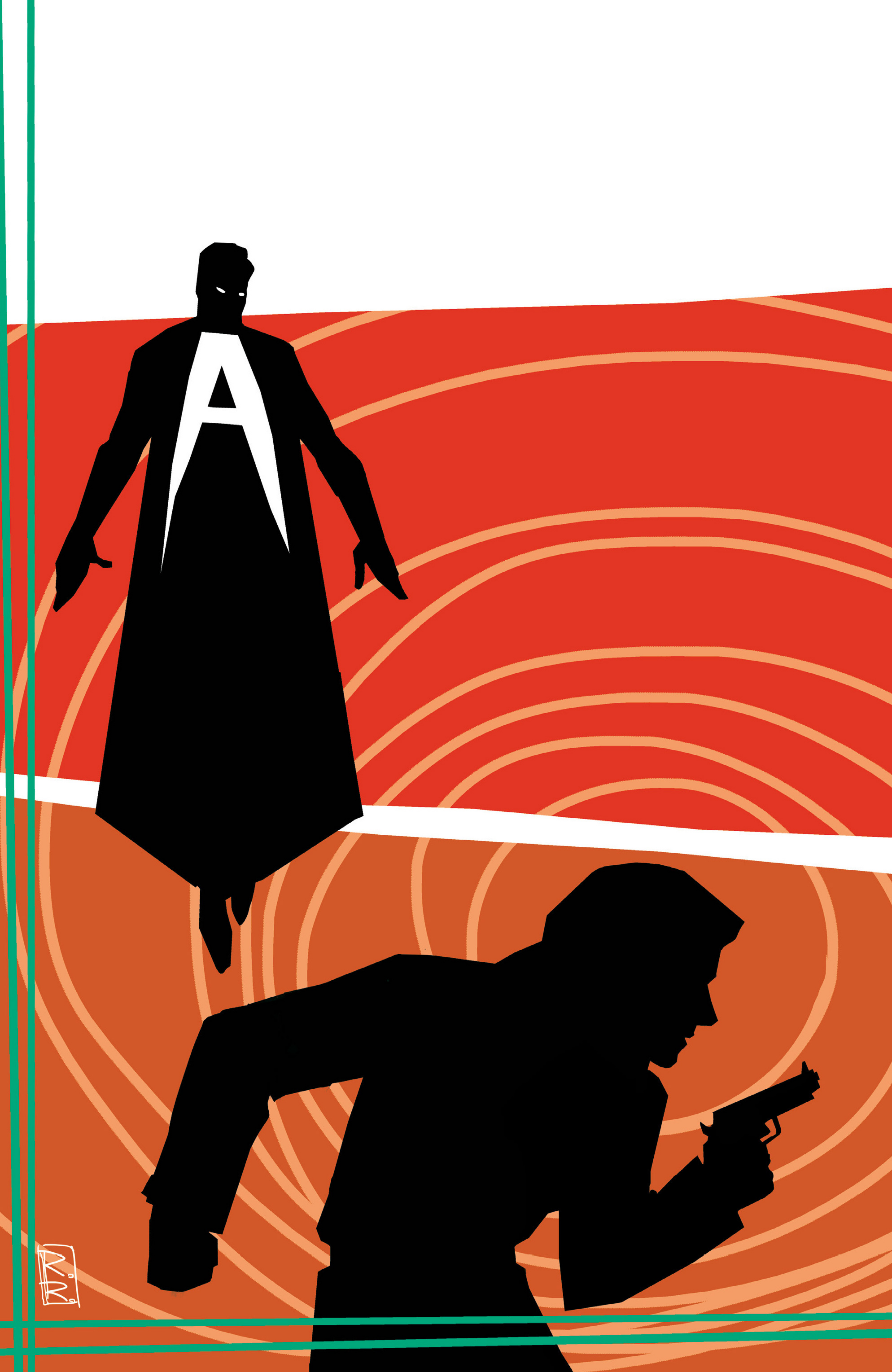
I'M A  
SUPERHERO,  
DAMMIT!











W.A.





--AND THE ALTERCATION, WHICH OCCURRED NEAR FULLERTON AVENUE, HAS LEFT BOTH WINDOWS AND RESIDENTS RATTLED.



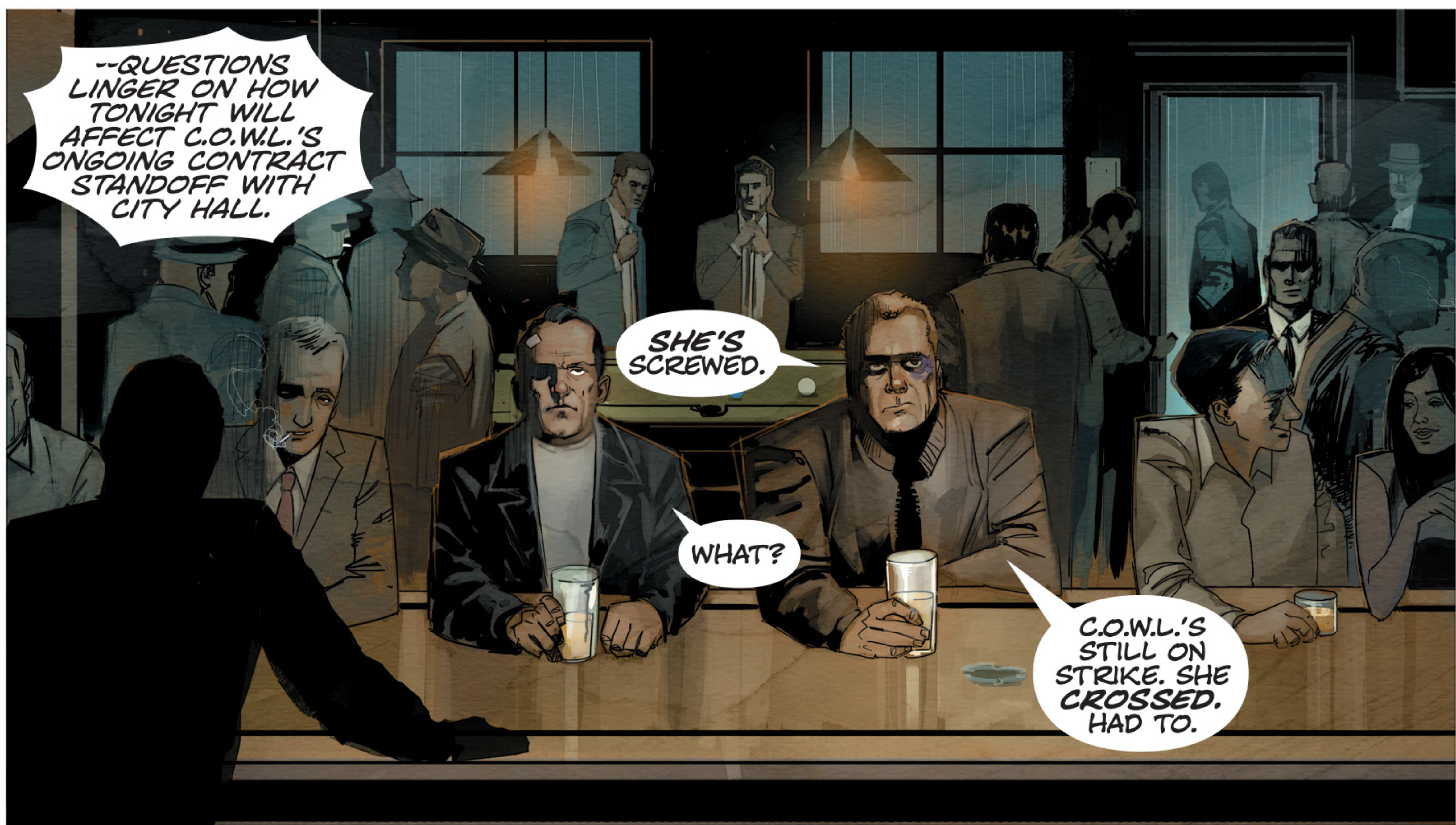
HOWEVER, EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALDERMAN LAWRENCE HAYES IS FINE, AND WILL MAKE A FULL RECOVERY FROM HIS INJURIES.



POLICE HAVE SUBDUED AND TAKEN THE MASKED VILLAIN, DOPPLER, INTO CUSTODY. HIS IDENTITY IS STILL UNKNOWN.



AND WHILE WE WAIT ON A STATEMENT FROM C.O.W.L. CHIEF GEOFFREY WARNER ABOUT RADIA'S INVOLVEMENT--



--QUESTIONS LINGER ON HOW TONIGHT WILL AFFECT C.O.W.L.'S ONGOING CONTRACT STANDOFF WITH CITY HALL.

SHE'S SCREWED.

WHAT?

C.O.W.L.'S STILL ON STRIKE. SHE CROSSED. HAD TO.





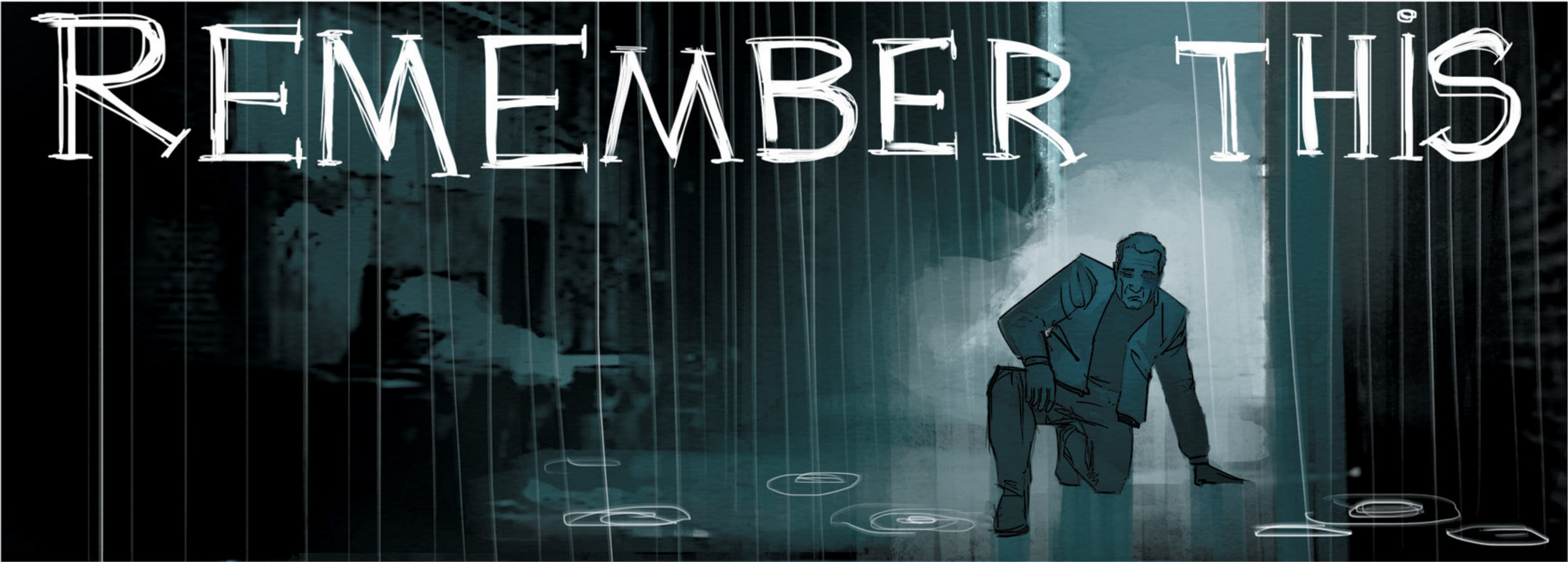
















# CHAPTER 4

## Full Disclosure



WEST 02 - NEAR WEST SIDE

WE'RE LOOKING AT MULTIPLE FRACTURES HERE.

Cook County Hospital

WHICH MEANS YOU'LL BE OFF THE ANKLE FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS. WE'LL SET YOU UP WITH CRUTCHES, BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE VERY MOBILE.

YOU KNOW I CAN FLY, RIGHT?

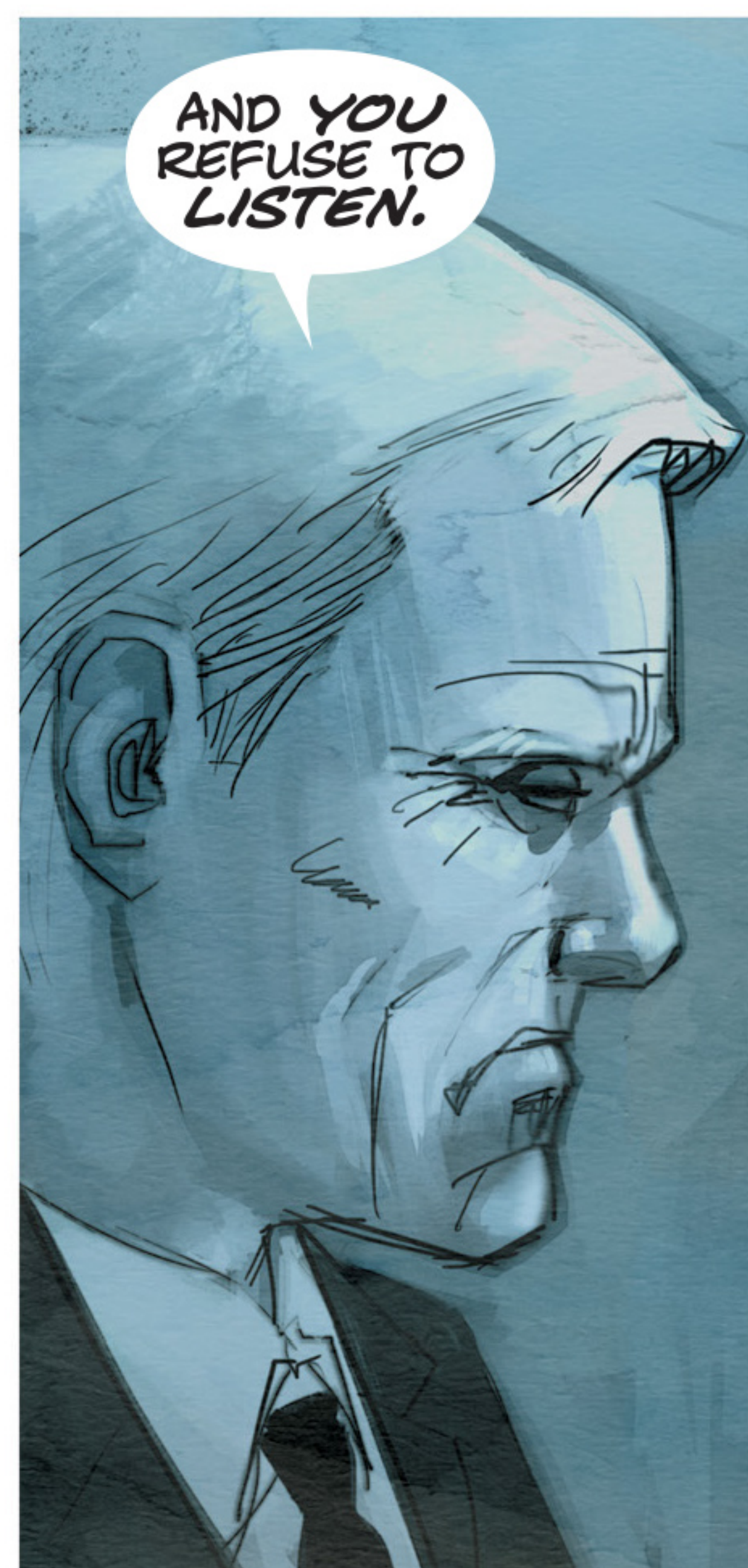
OH. I... HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED THAT.

WHAT ABOUT THESE?

THERE'RE NO BROKEN BONES, JUST BRUISES. THEY SHOULD BE HEALED WELL BEFORE THE CAST COMES OFF.

THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY.





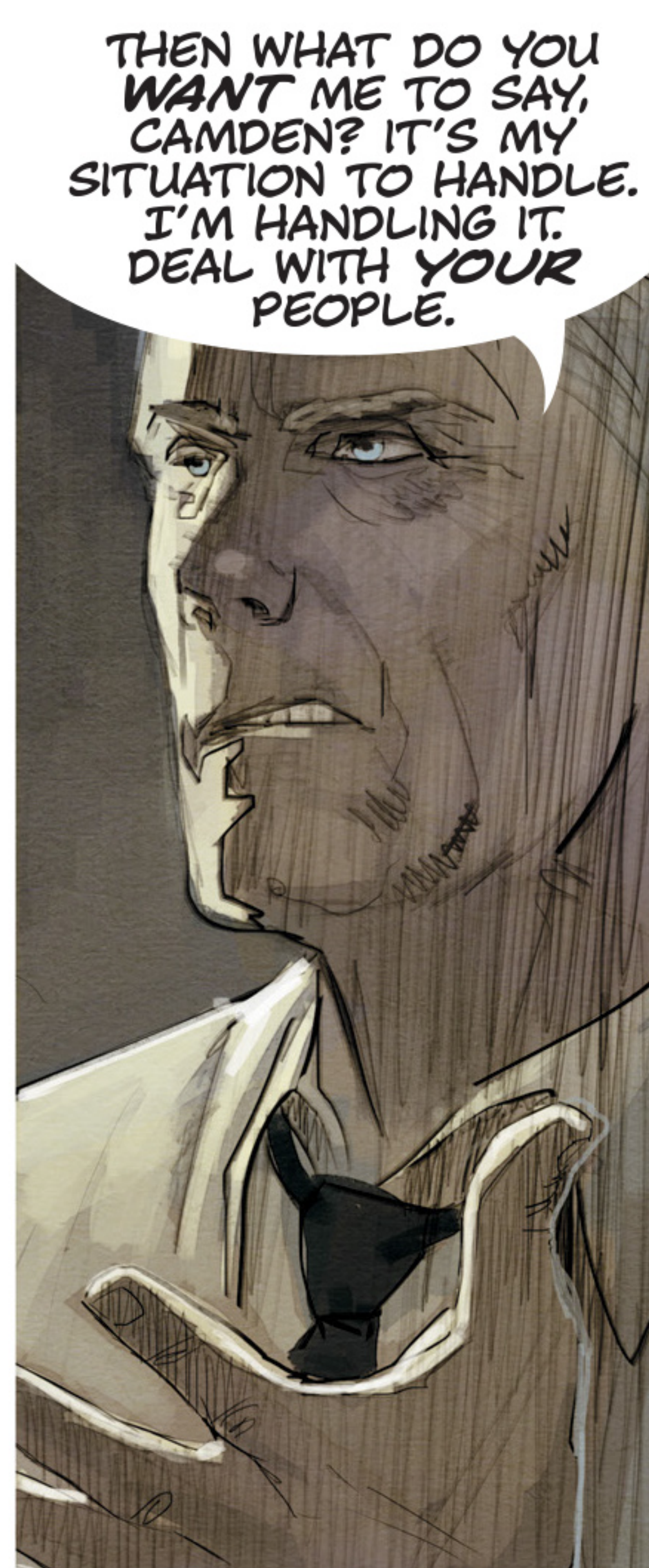
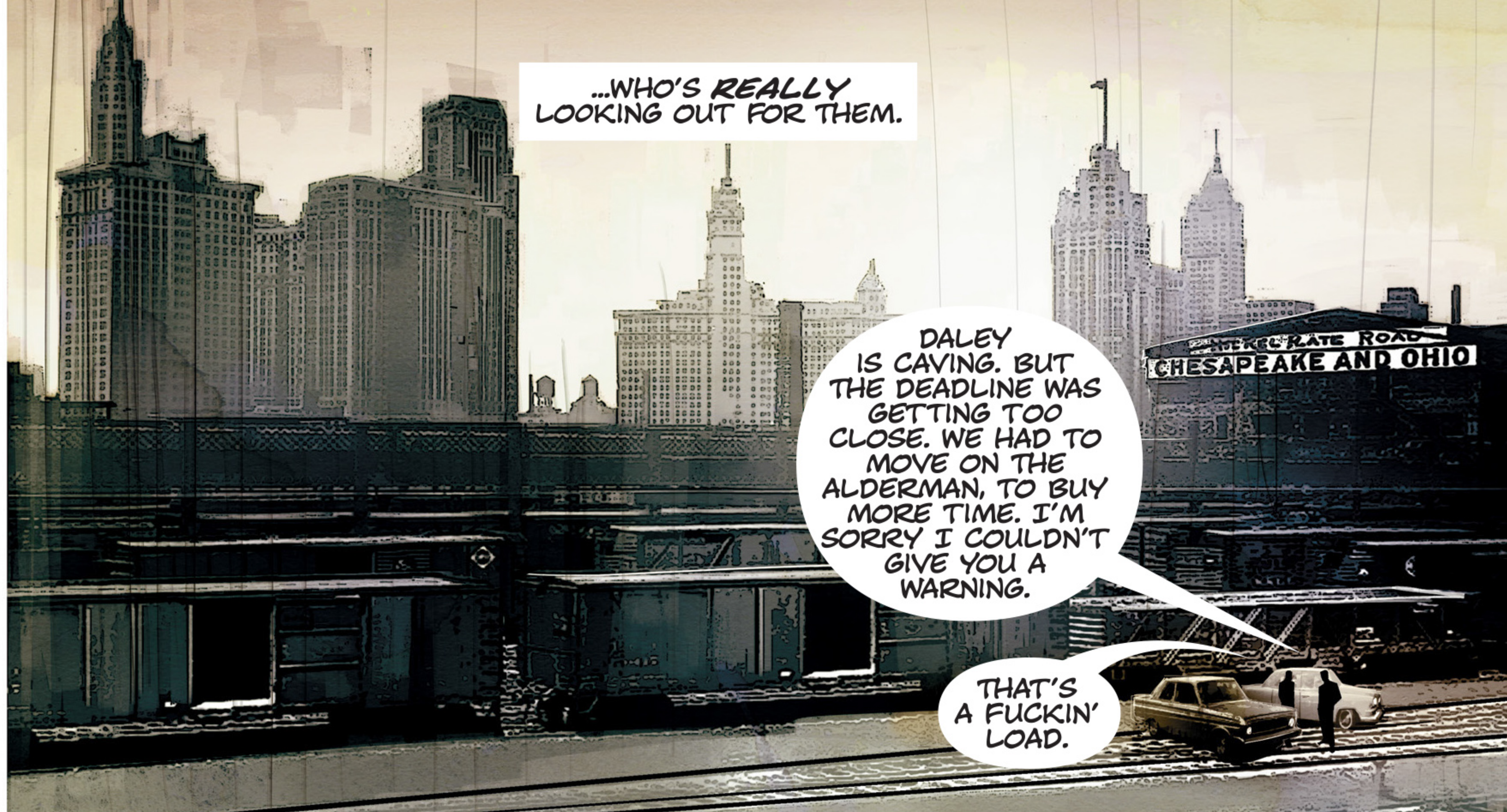




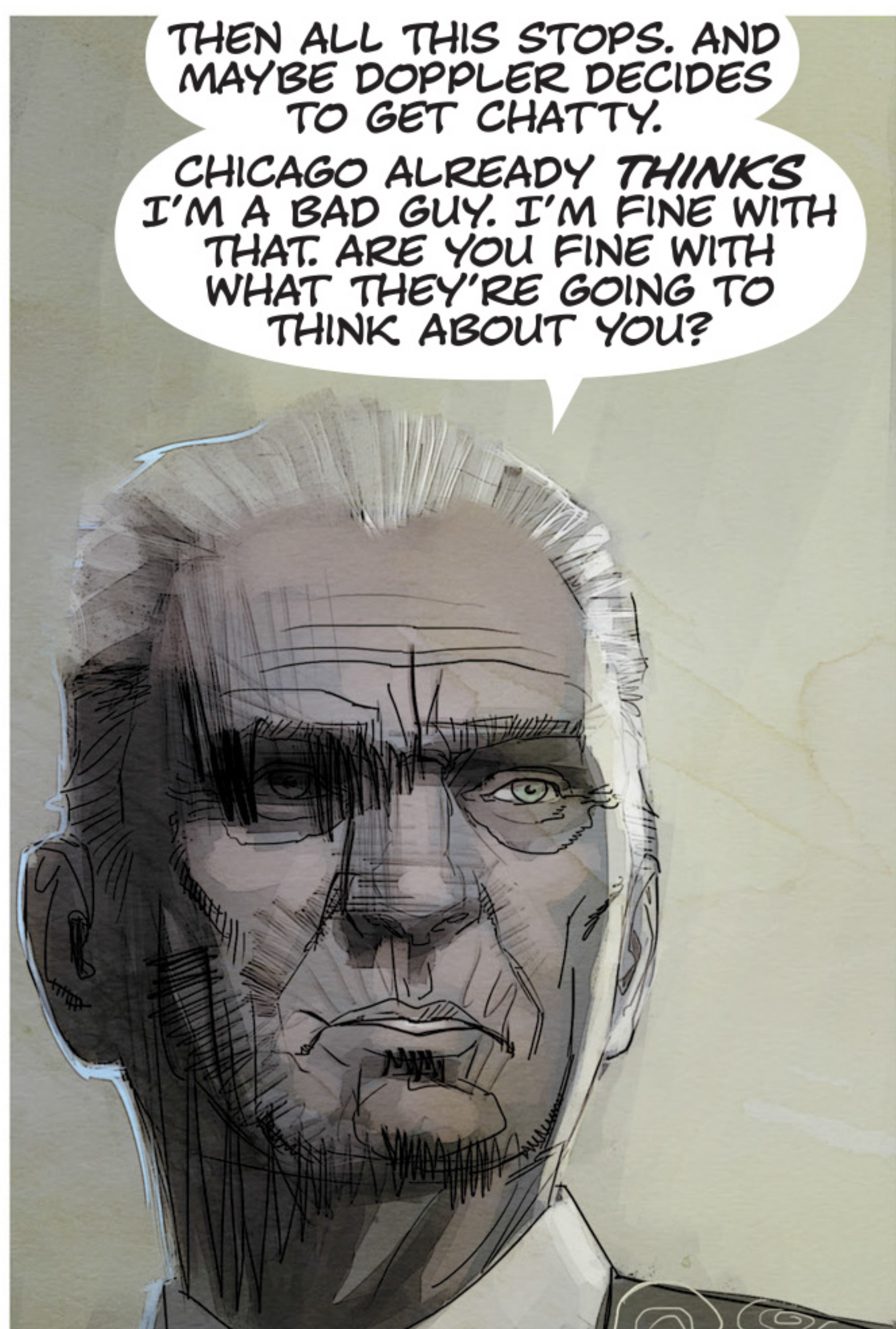




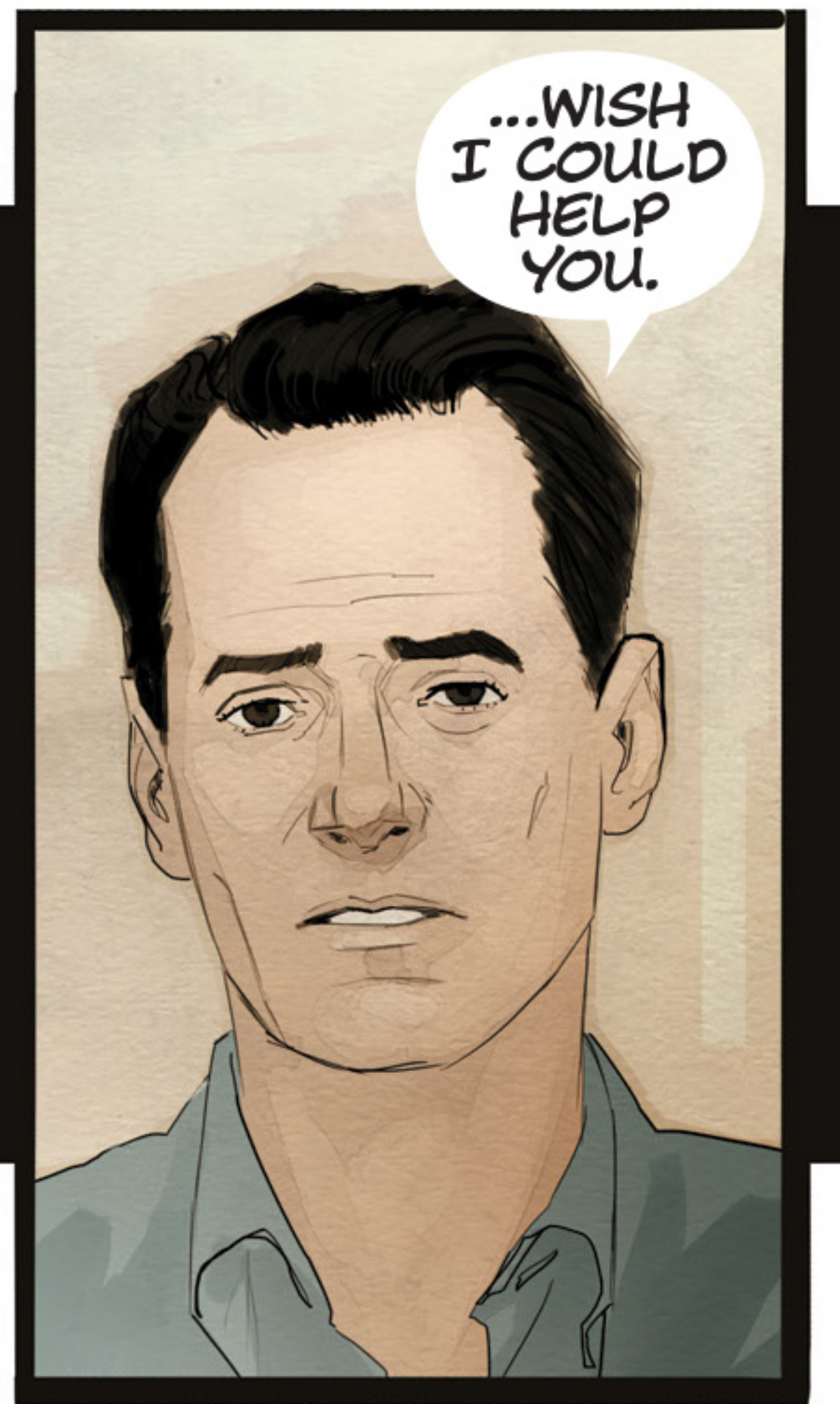
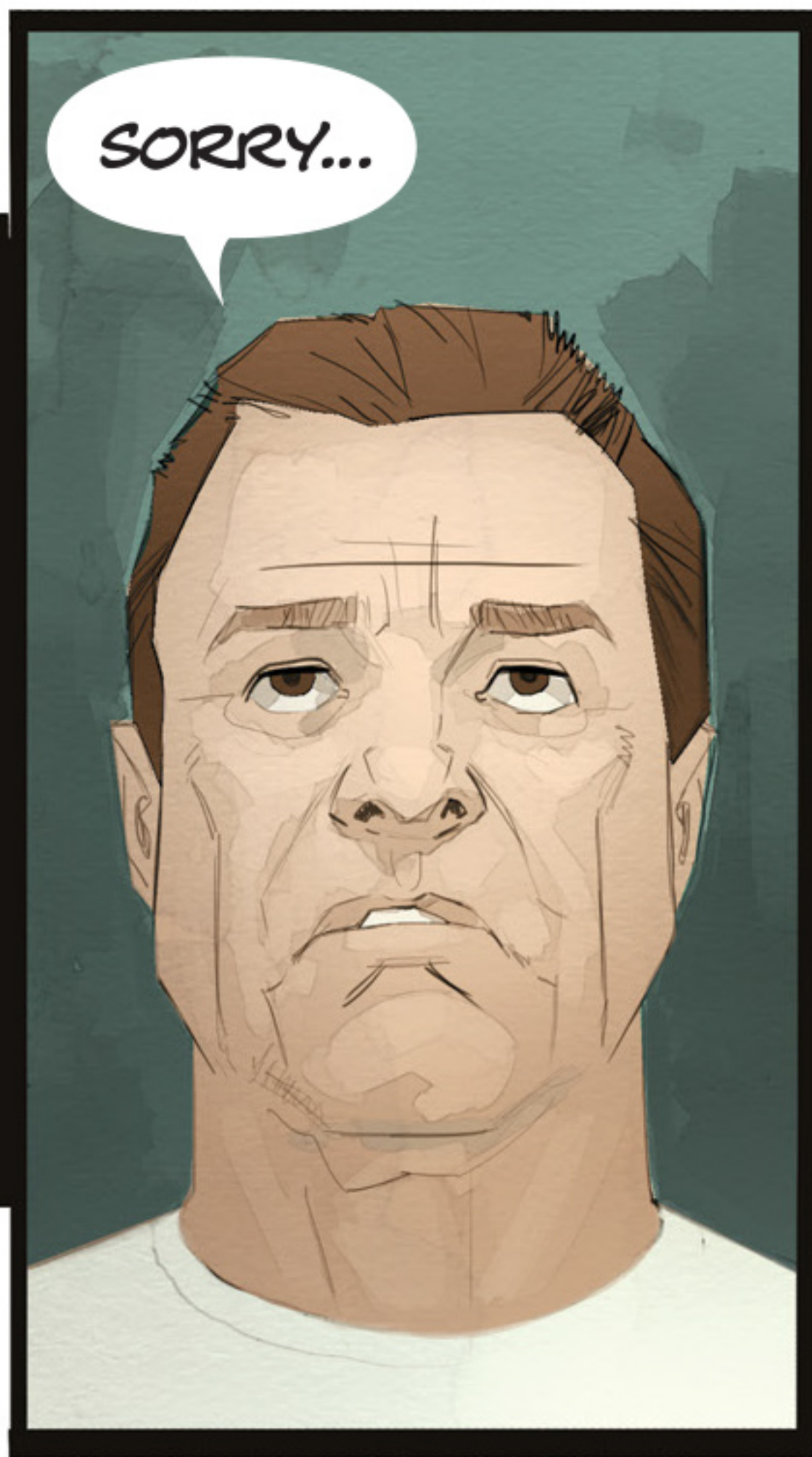




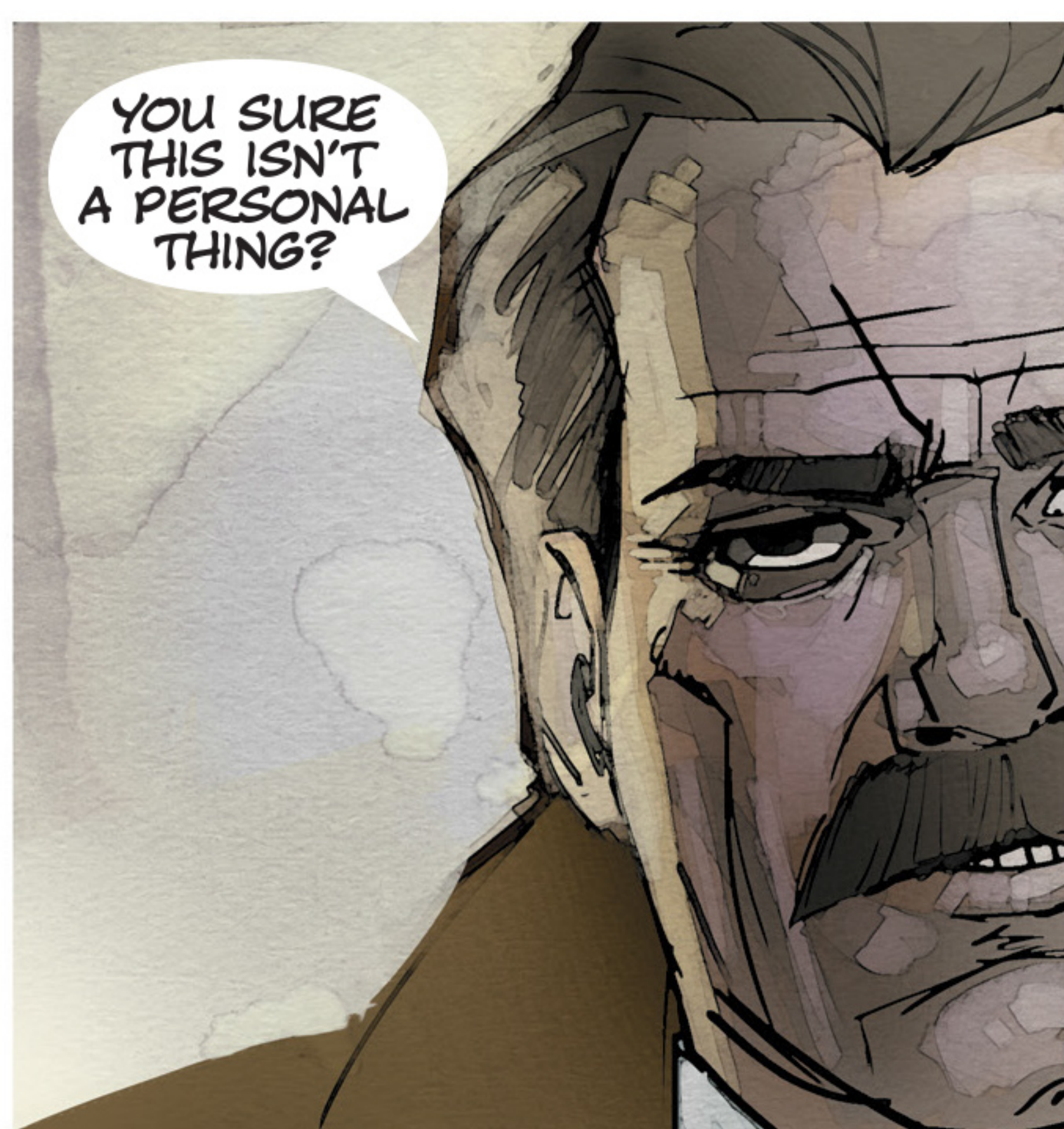
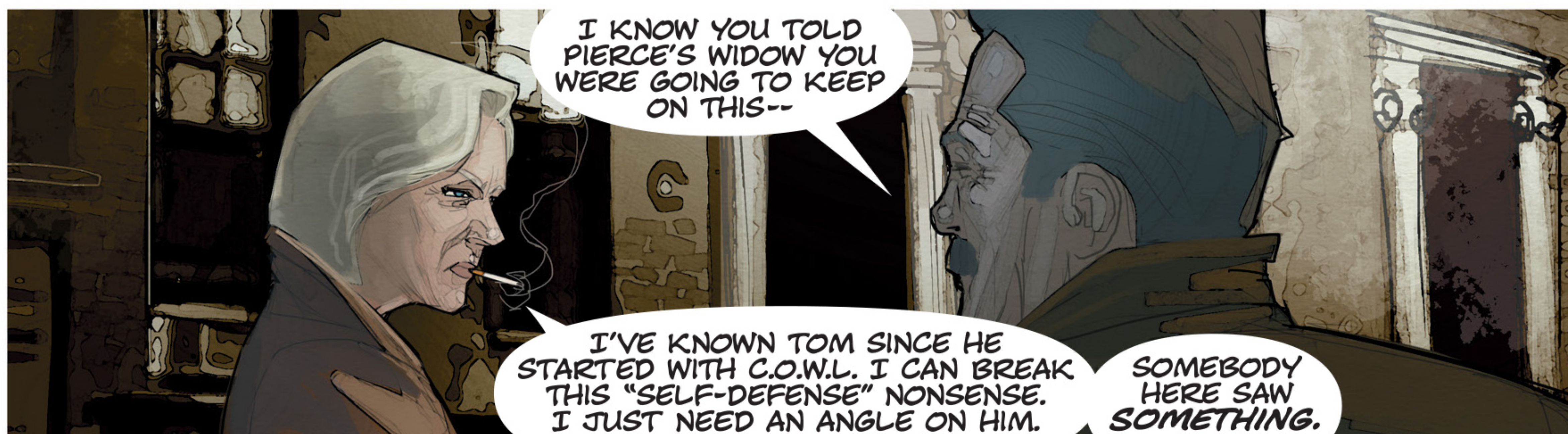






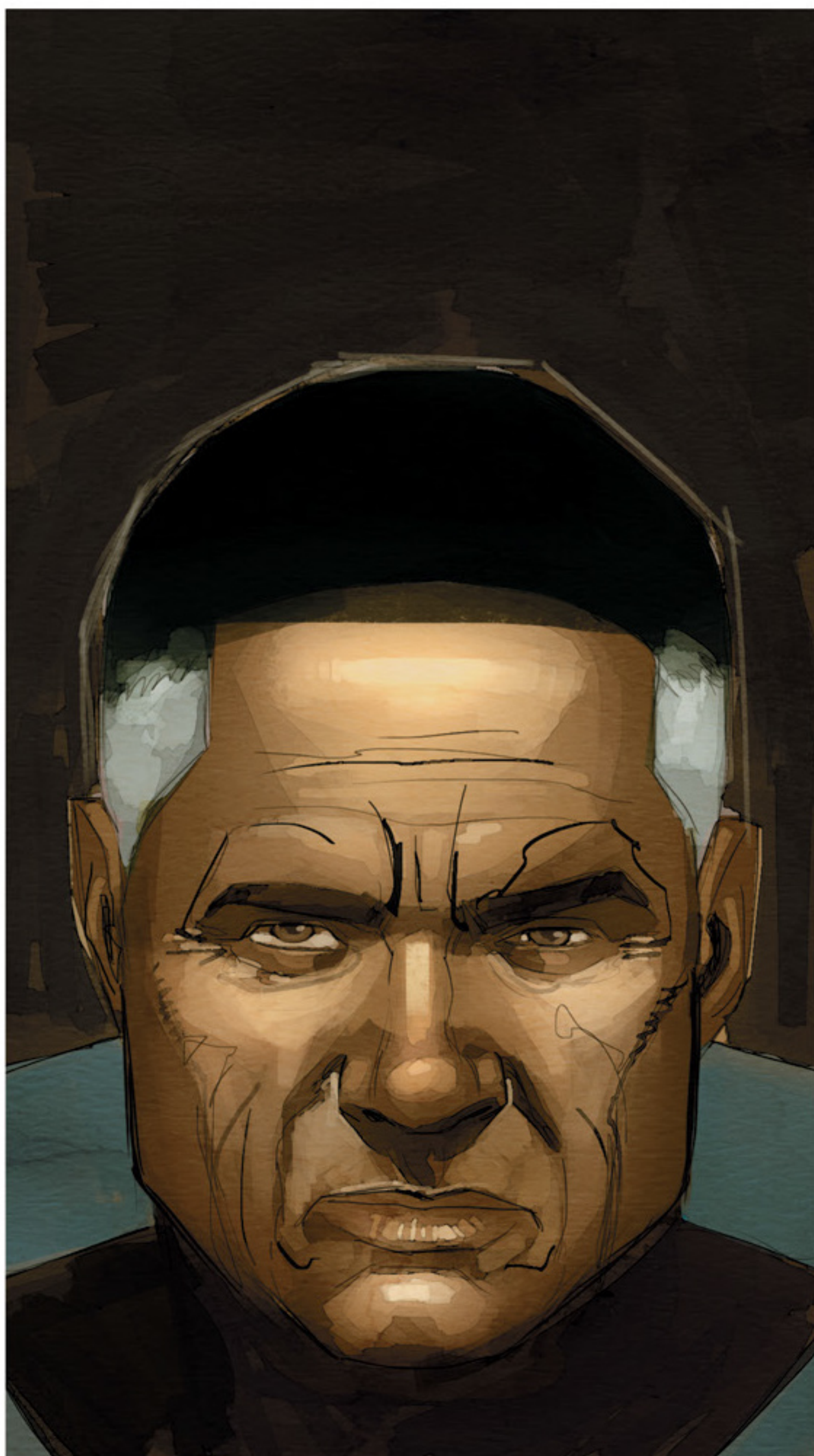








CENTRAL 01 -  
NEAR NORTH SIDE  
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS



I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.



SURE YOU DO, KARL.  
YOU KNOW WHAT I  
KNOW. YOU WERE AT THE  
PICKET LINE. YOU WERE  
WITH THE GROUP WHEN  
THE RIOT STARTED. YOU  
SAW FRANK FIRE OFF  
A BLAST THAT TORE  
APART CITY HALL.

WOW. THAT...  
SOUNDS REALLY  
SPECIFIC. LIKE  
SOMETHING I'D  
REMEMBER  
SEEING.



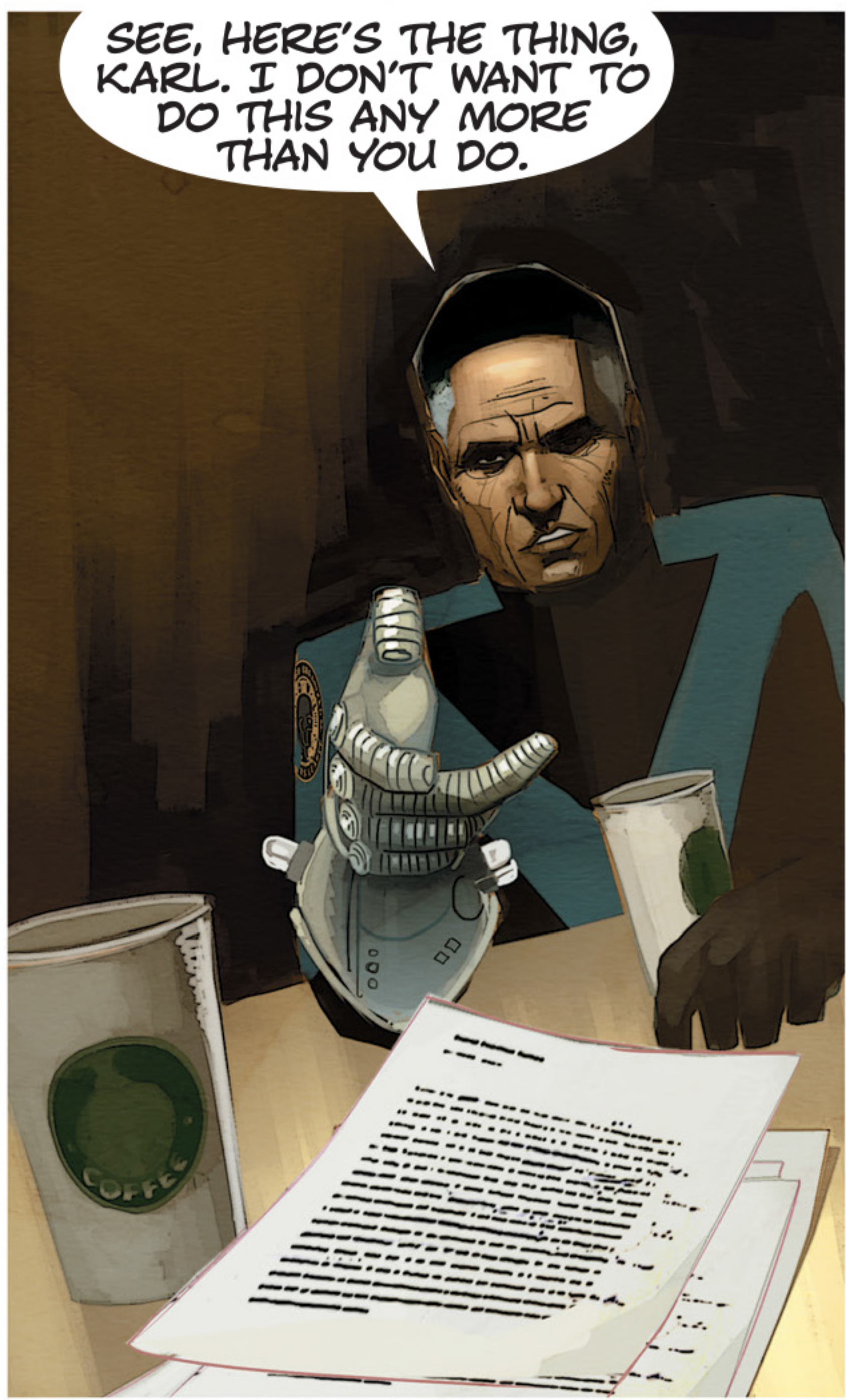
HM. I GUESS YOU'RE  
RIGHT. BUT, YOU KNOW  
HOW MEMORY IS. PLUS,  
YOU WERE PROBABLY  
PRETTY TIRED AFTER  
THE DAY YOU HAD  
WITH KATHRYN.



TEARING  
THROUGH  
CAMDEN  
STONE'S  
CASINO.



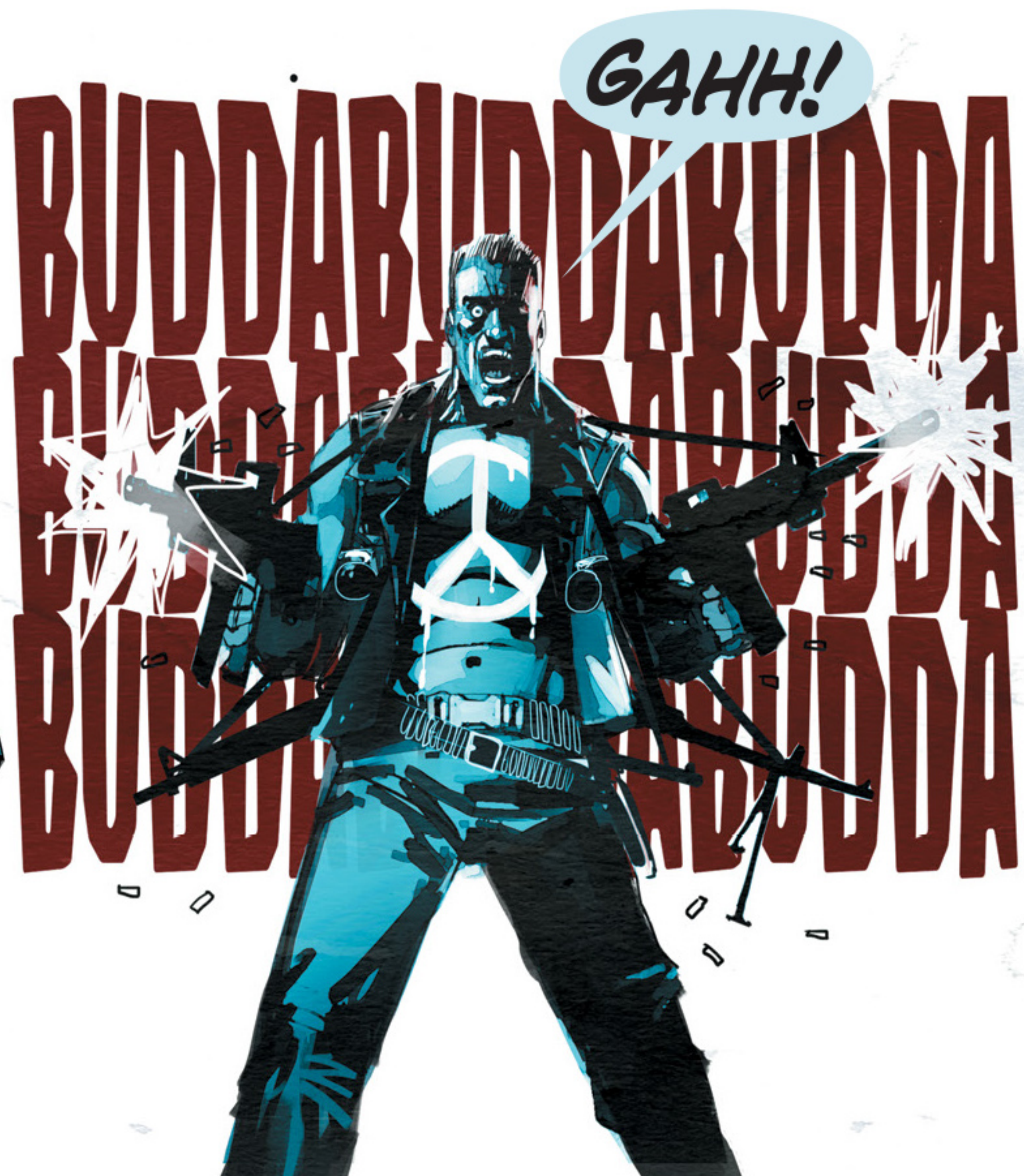
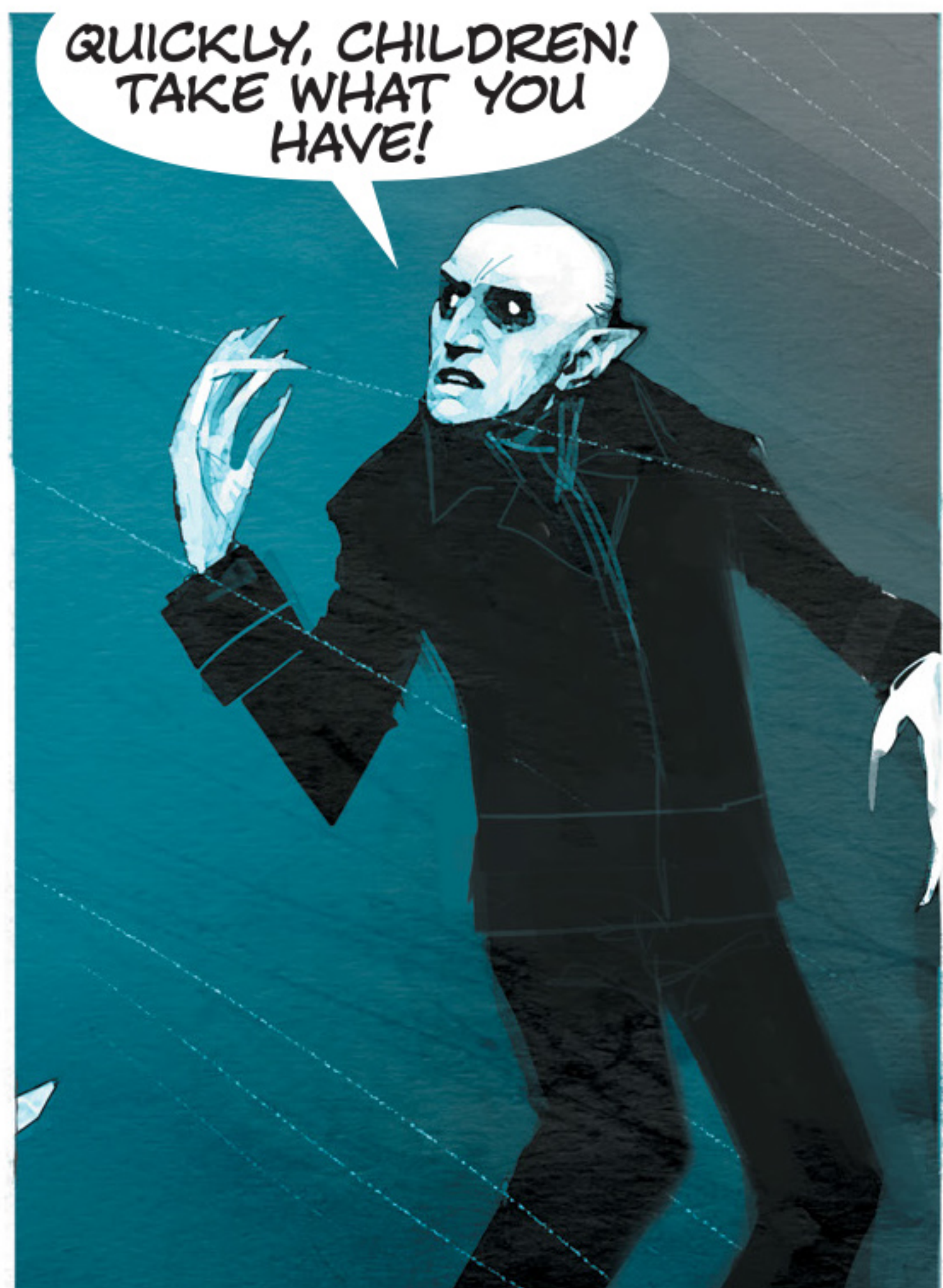




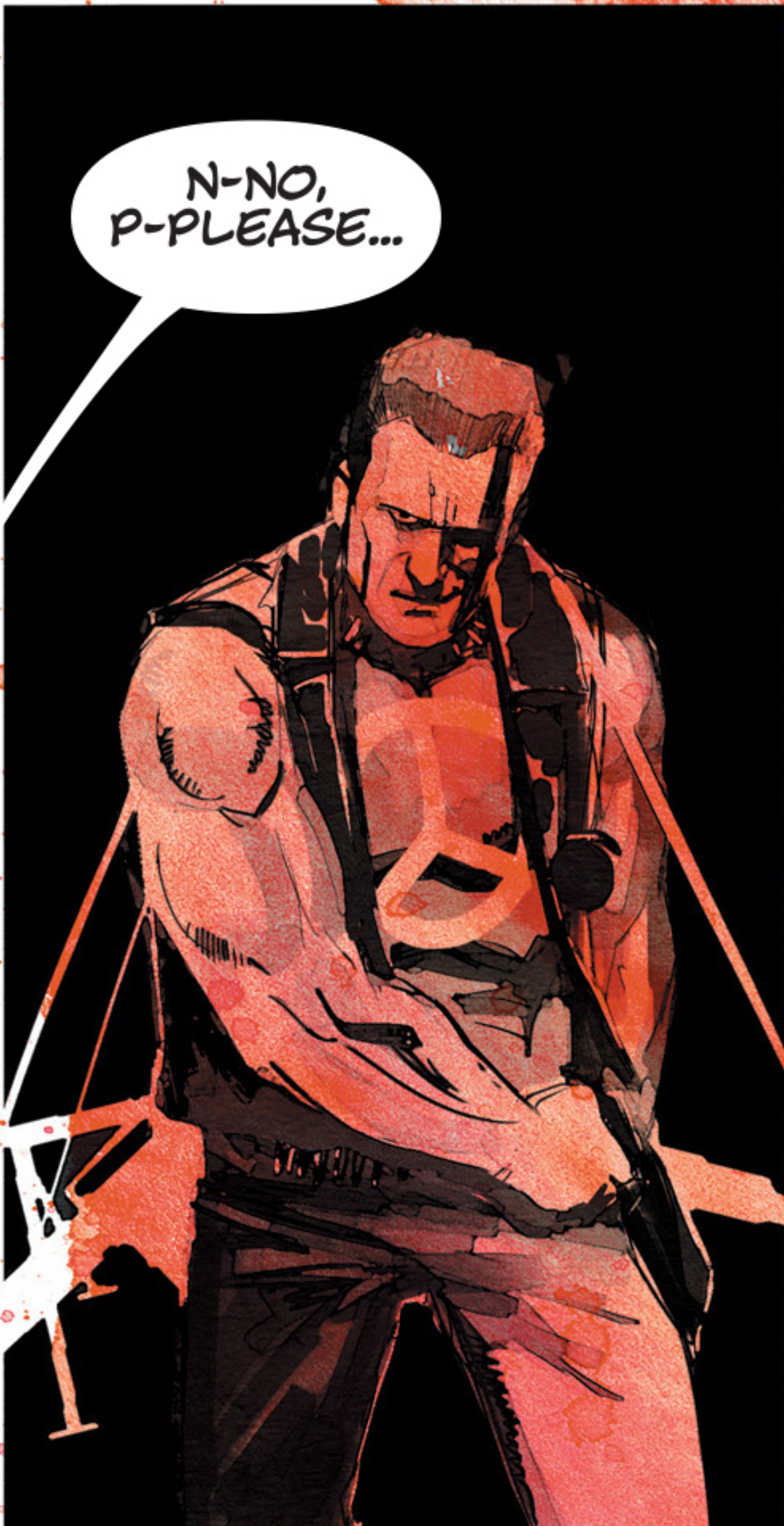
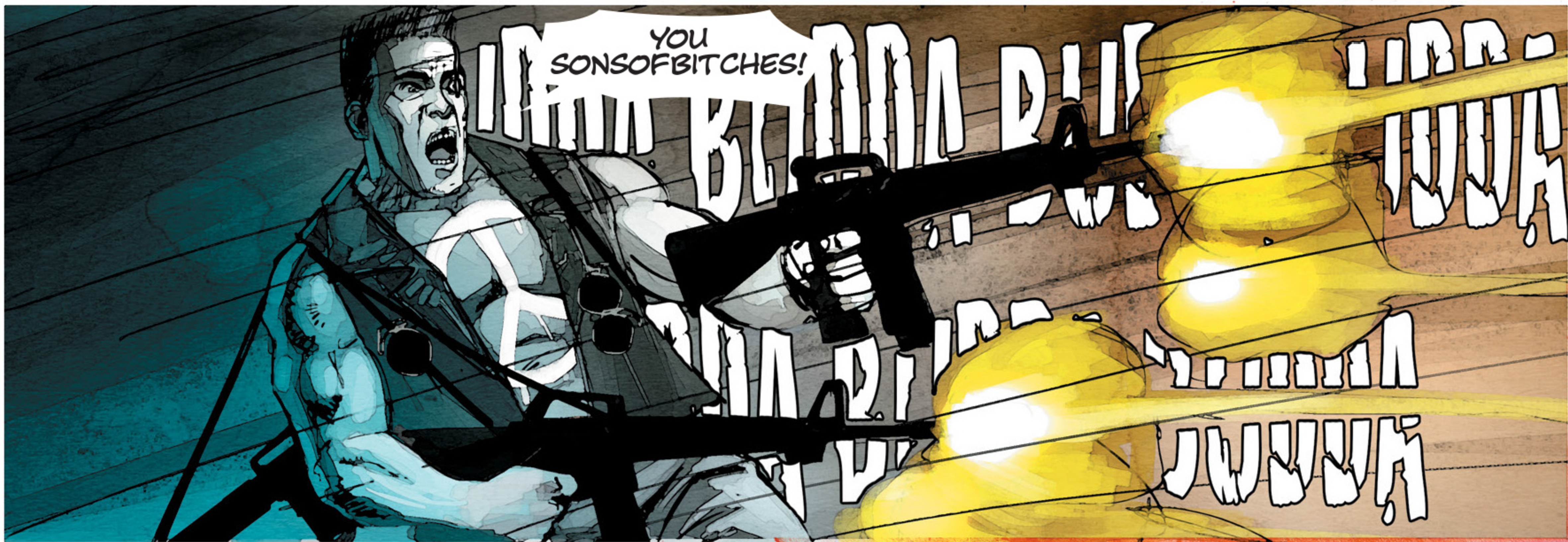














HE JUST  
WALKED  
RIGHT IN?















WV





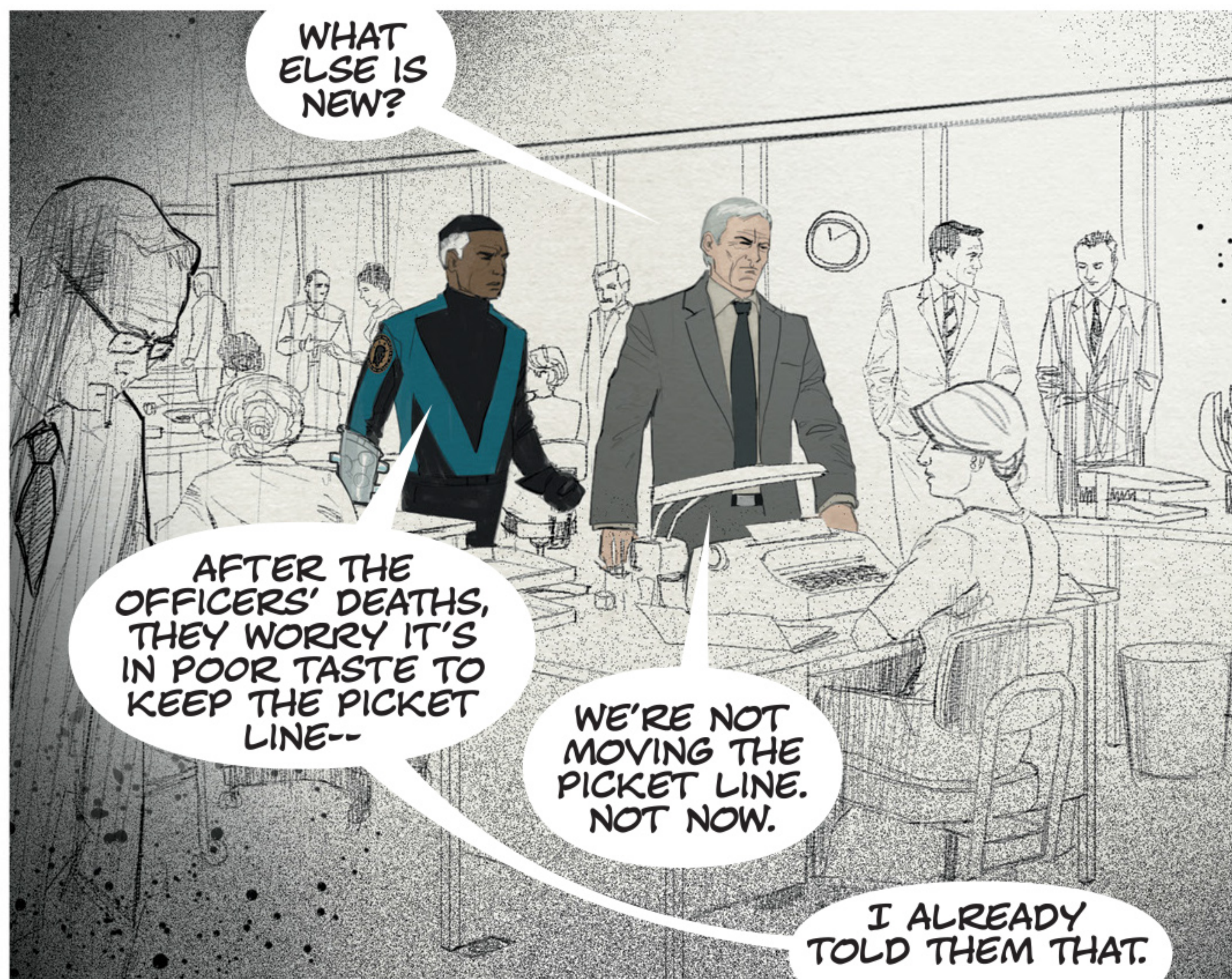




# CHAPTER 5

## Coming to Terms

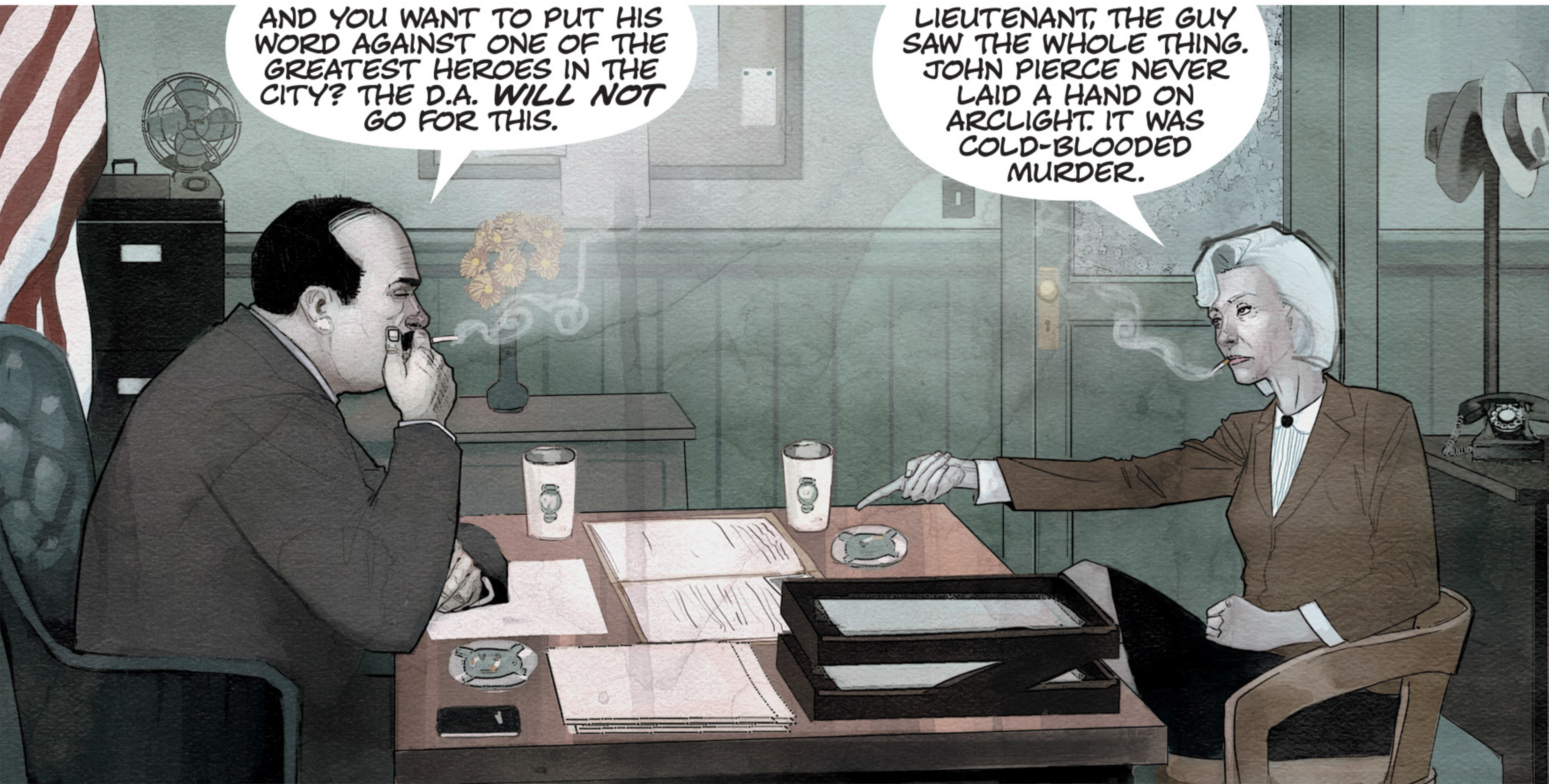




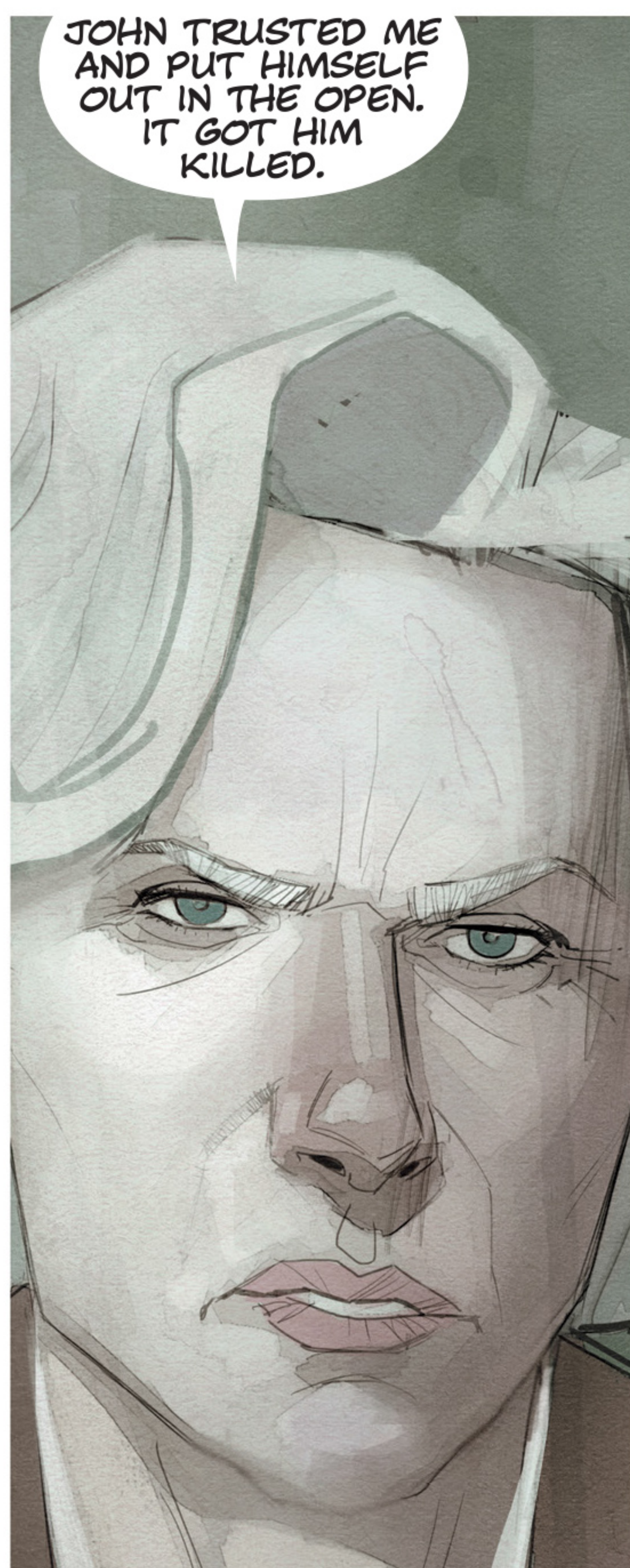












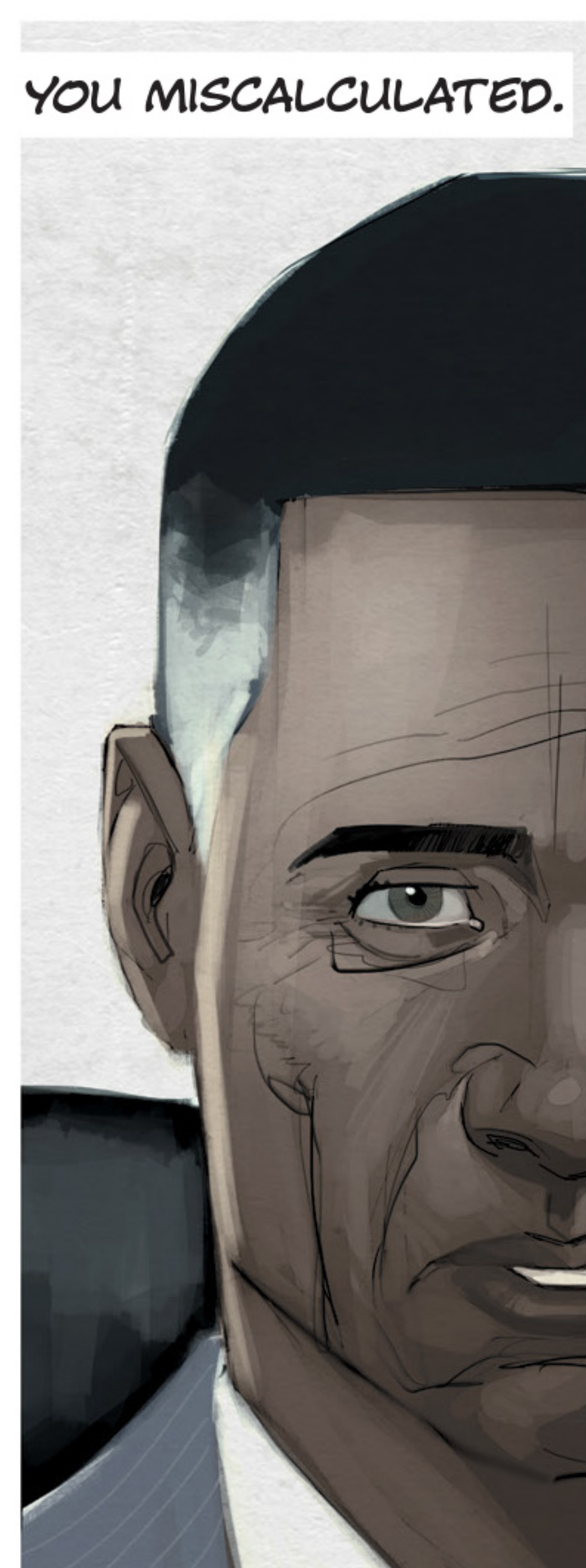
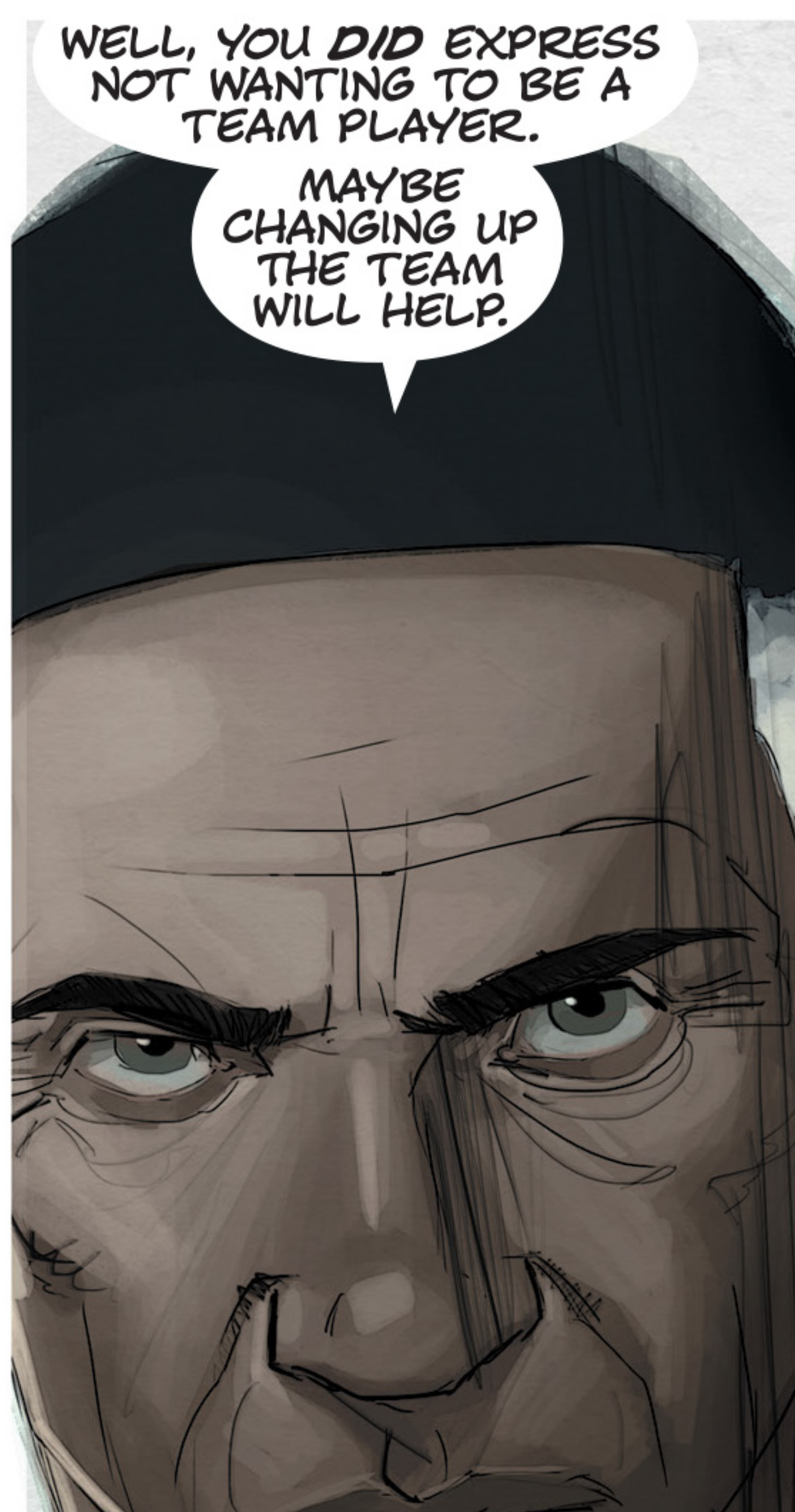














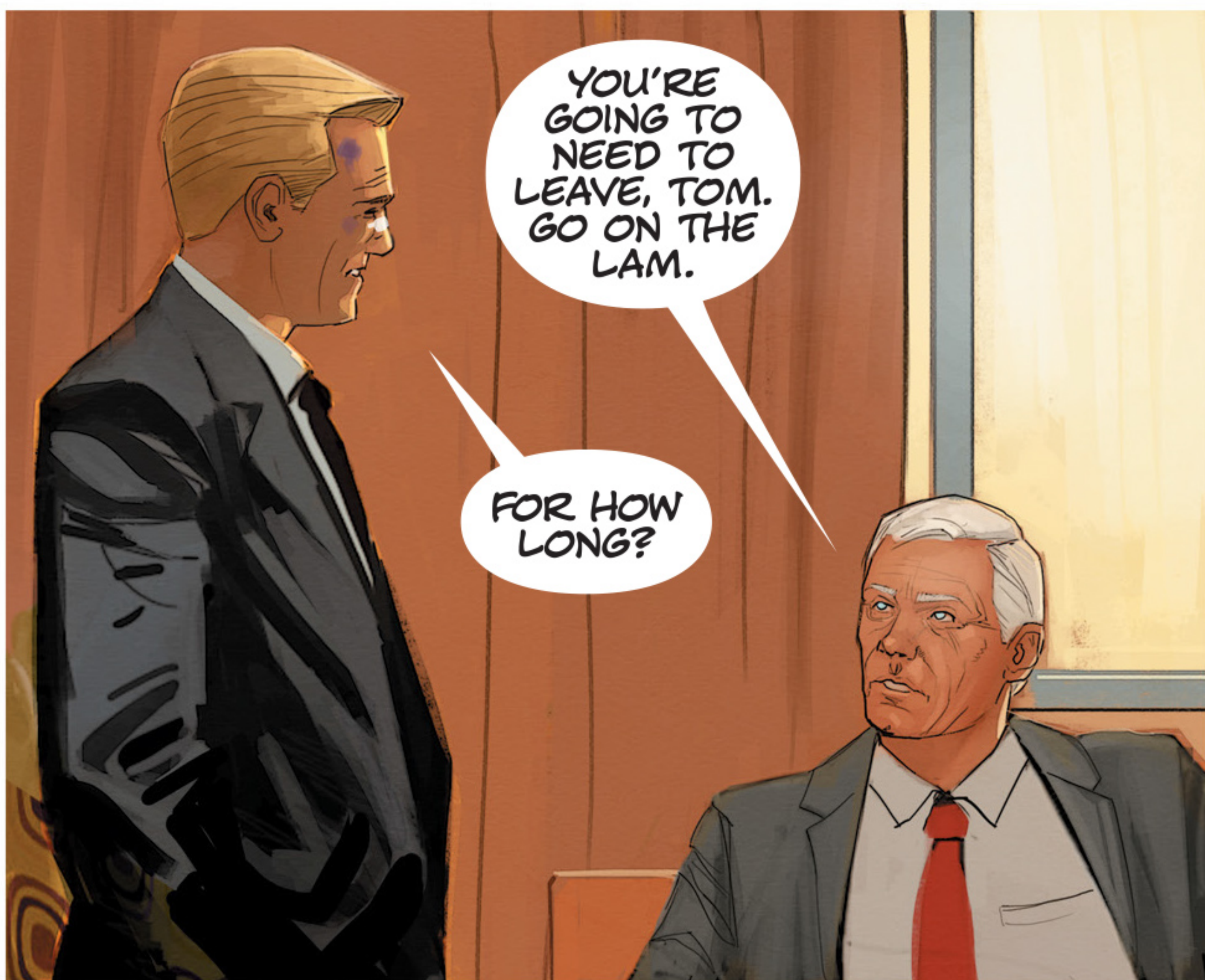


AND NOW, THE TWO  
ROBBERS HAVE  
COME FORWARD.



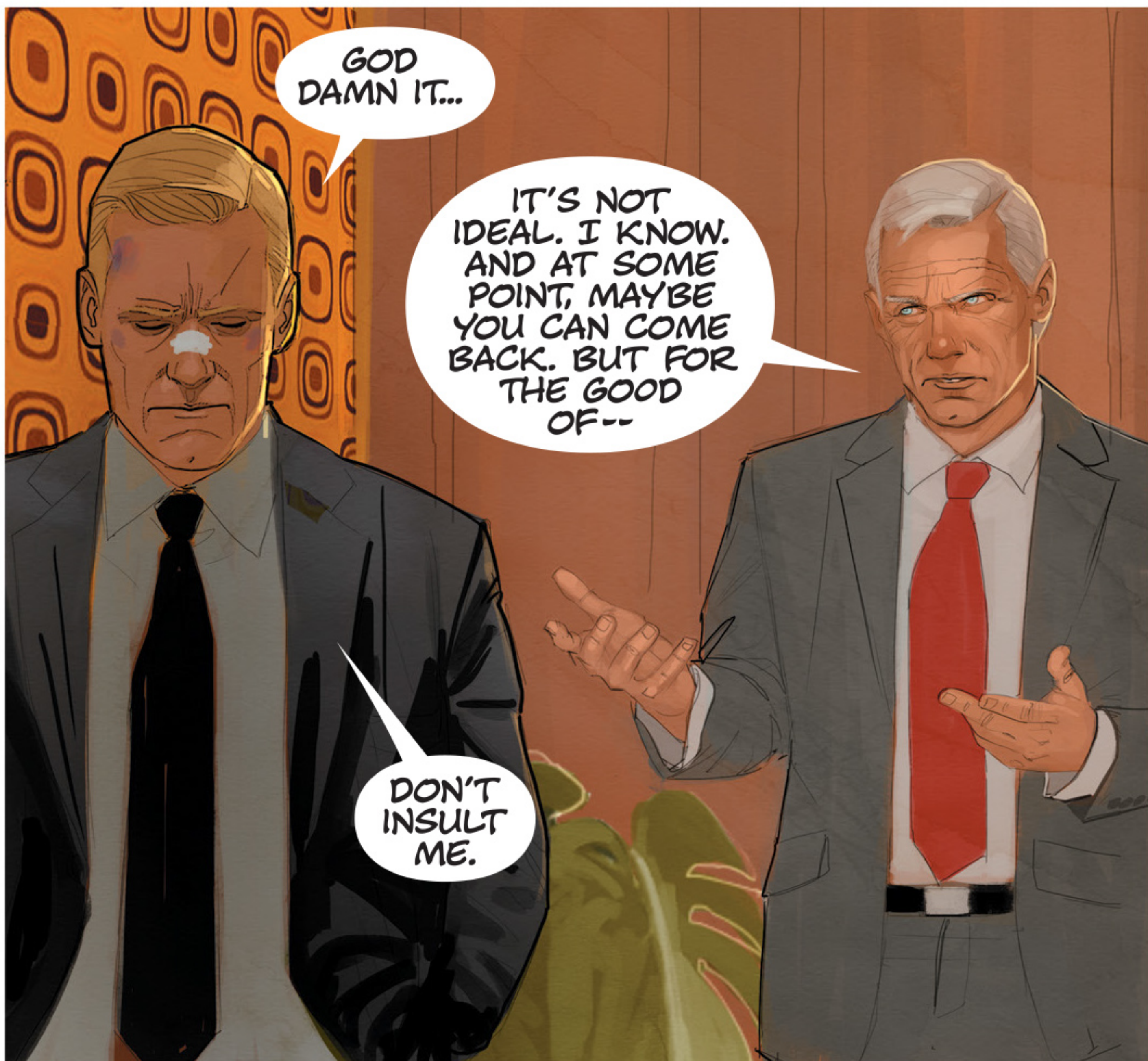
YOU REALLY  
THINK THE  
POLICE HAVE  
ENOUGH?

THEY'VE  
ALREADY TAKEN  
STATEMENTS. THERE'S  
A JURISDICTION  
ISSUE... BUT WE BOTH  
KNOW EVELYN. IT'LL  
ONLY BE A MATTER OF  
TIME BEFORE SHE  
GETS HER WAY.



YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
NEED TO  
LEAVE, TOM.  
GO ON THE  
LAM.

FOR HOW  
LONG?



GOD  
DAMN IT...

IT'S NOT  
IDEAL. I KNOW.  
AND AT SOME  
POINT, MAYBE  
YOU CAN COME  
BACK. BUT FOR  
THE GOOD  
OF--

DON'T  
INSULT  
ME.



I'VE DONE EVERYTHING  
I CAN TO PROTECT YOU.  
YOU MADE A **TERRIBLE**  
MISTAKE. THOSE COME  
WITH CONSE--

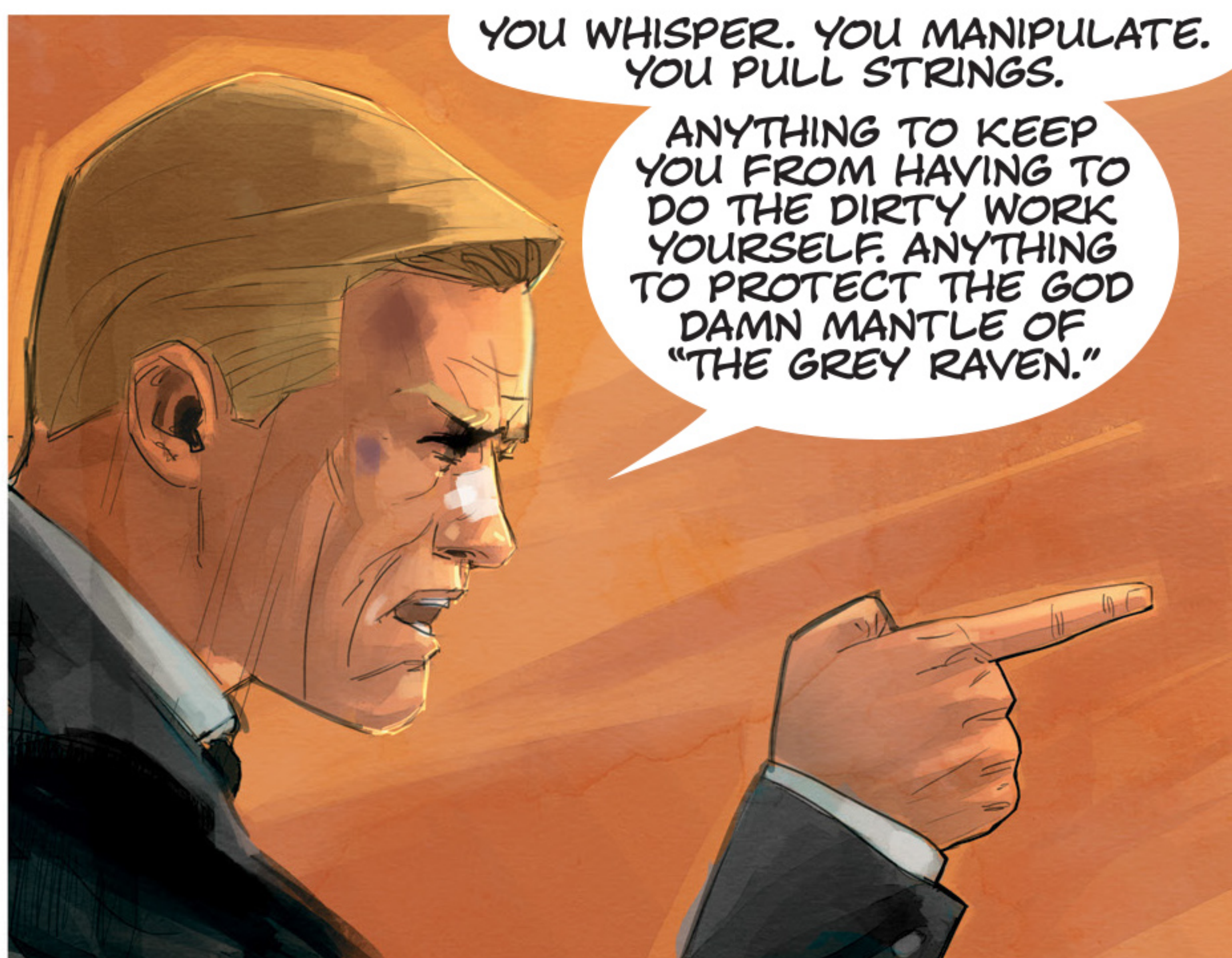




CONSEQUENCES?!  
REALLY?! YOU'RE GOING  
TO TALK TO ME ABOUT  
CONSEQUENCES?!



YOU CAN  
PRETEND YOU WERE  
**DRUNK** OR THAT YOU  
DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY  
IT, BUT WE **BOTH** KNOW  
WHAT YOU WERE ASKING  
FOR IN THAT LOCKER  
ROOM. WE **BOTH** KNOW  
YOU WANTED JOHN  
DEAD.



YOU WHISPER. YOU MANIPULATE.  
YOU PULL STRINGS.

ANYTHING TO KEEP  
YOU FROM HAVING TO  
DO THE DIRTY WORK  
YOURSELF. ANYTHING  
TO PROTECT THE GOD  
DAMN MANTLE OF  
"THE GREY RAVEN."



TELL  
ME SOMETHING THOUGH,  
GEOFFREY. **HONESTLY.**  
AFTER EVERYTHING  
YOU'VE DONE, AT THIS  
POINT...



...WHAT  
THE FUCK IS  
"THE GREY  
RAVEN" EVEN  
WORTH?





MARY

RADIA







YOU GOTTA BE SHITTIN' ME. THEY CANNED YOU TOO?

NO. I QUIT.



HUH. WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

REALLY...?

YEAH. THEY LET GRANT GO BECAUSE OF... WELL, IT DOESN'T FUCKING MATTER THAT WAS IT. THAT WAS MY LAST STRAW.



ARE YOU OKAY? OBVIOUSLY I... HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. WITH THAT DOPPLER GUY.

I'LL BE FINE. FLOATING OUT THAT DOOR HAS ME FEELING BETTER ALREADY.



LISTEN, I, UM... I'VE BEEN PRETTY MIXED UP FOR A WHILE. THAT'S NOT AN EXCUSE FOR TURNING MY BACK THE WAY I DID, BUT... WELL, I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU, I WISH I HADN'T.

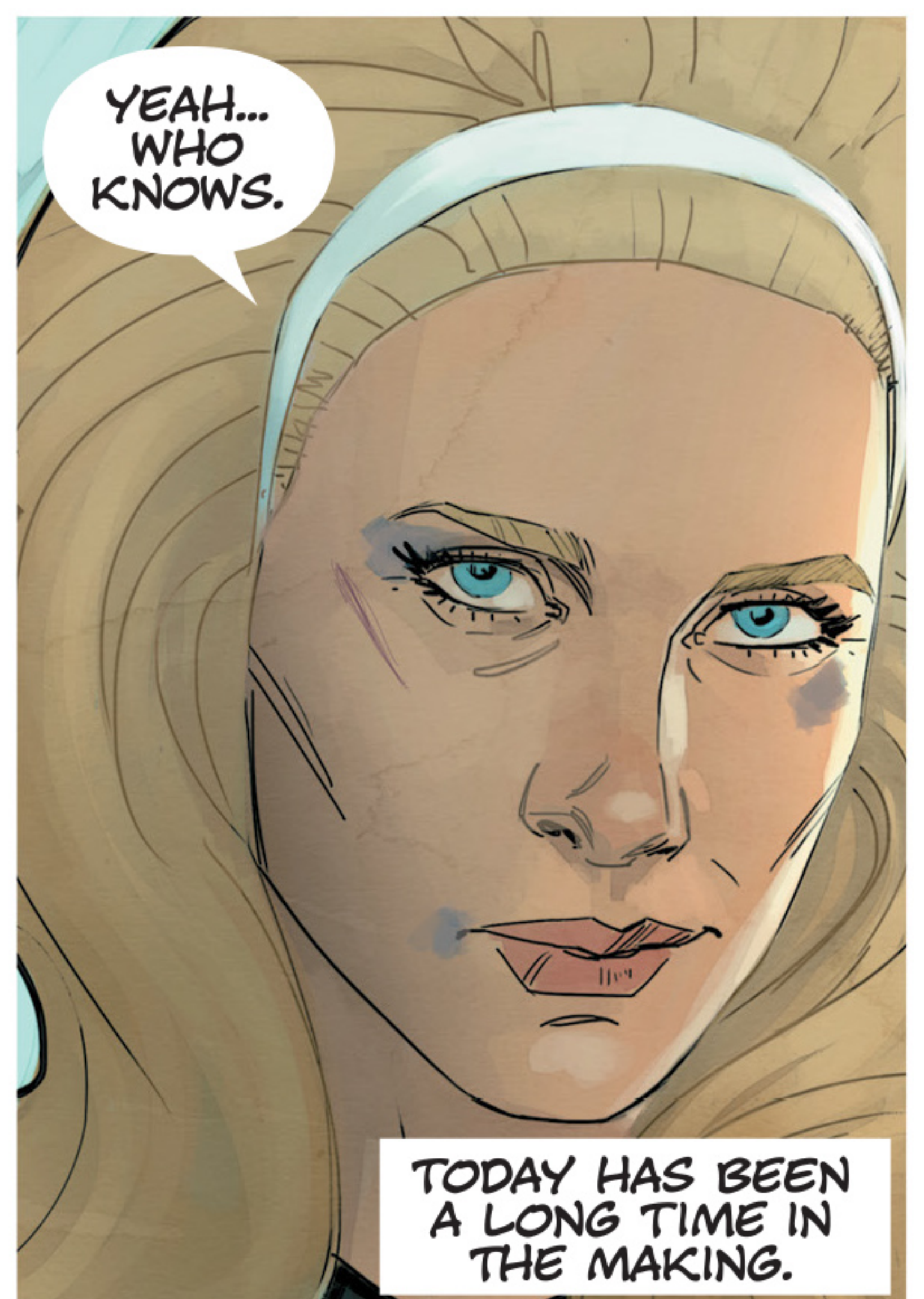


IF I HAD ANOTHER CRACK AT THINGS... I'D HANDLE 'EM A LOT DIFFERENT.

I APPRECIATE YOU SAYING THAT, KARL. REALLY.



YEAH. ANYWAY, I'M SURE YOU'LL LAND ON YOUR FEET. AND WHO KNOWS-- MAYBE WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AROUND OR SOMETHING, YEAH?



YEAH... WHO KNOWS.

TODAY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME IN THE MAKING.





THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, WHEN BLAZE, SPARROW, AND I STARTED C.O.W.L., WE DID SO BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT HEROES COULD BE BETTER IF THEY DID IT FULL TIME.



THAT PARTNERING WITH CITY LEADERS WOULD MAKE US MORE EFFECTIVE.

ALDERMAN LOWE!

DID YOU REALLY SELL C.O.W.L. DESIGNS TO SKYLANCER?!

CLIK



THAT WE WOULD ALL HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.

THERE WERE A HUNDRED PEOPLE AT CITY HALL-- YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING WAS ME...



WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE ONE GOAL.

HE LIVES ON THE FORTY-FIFTH FLOOR?

NO, NO... WE CAN FLOAT A CAMERA UP THERE WITHOUT A PROBLEM. YOUR HUSBAND WILL NEVER KNOW IT'S THERE.

MITCHELL & SAMOSKI, INVESTIGATORS



OF COURSE, IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY. WE'VE LOST OUR FAIR SHARE OF BATTLES.

I REALLY WISH I COULD PUSH THE HAYDN CASE FURTHER, KID... BUT IT'S OVER. GEOFFREY WON.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH THOUGH, I DON'T THINK HE HAS ANY IDEA YOU HELPED ME.

OF COURSE HE DOESN'T. AS FAR AS GEOFFREY'S CONCERNED...









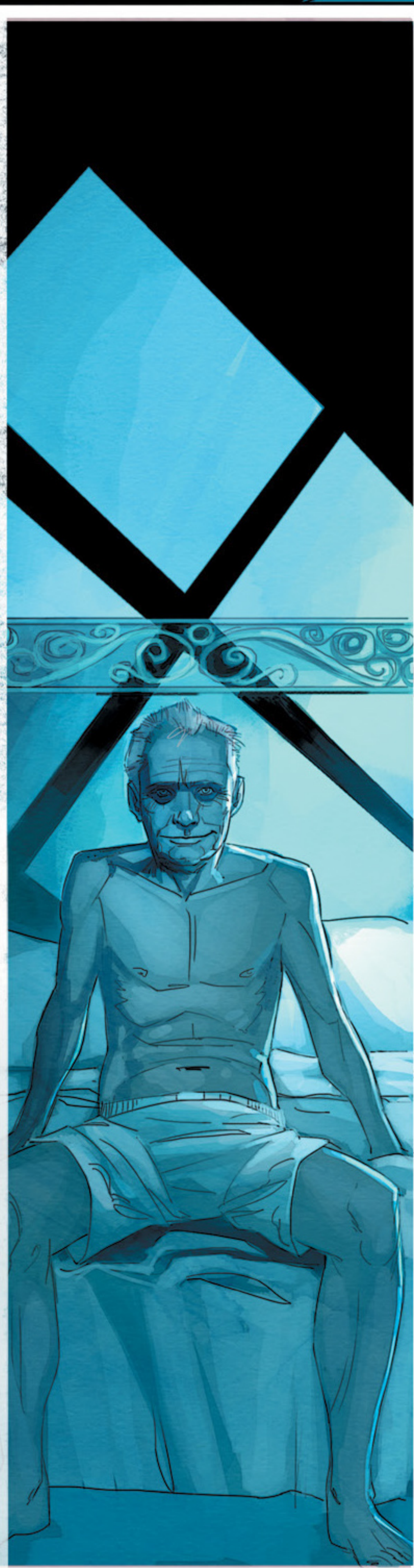


DO YOU WANT  
ME TO PUT  
THE **WIG** ON,  
TOO?

WE TALKED  
ABOUT THIS,  
KAREN. THE  
HAIR'S PART OF  
HER LOOK. IF  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO DO THIS  
FOR ME--



OKAY, OKAY.  
WHATEVER  
MAKES YOU  
HAPPY, BABY.  
YOU KNOW  
THAT.



C  
L  
I  
K  
!

YOUR WHORE  
SEEMS NICE,  
CAMDEN.

WHAT A  
SHAME.







THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, WARNER...

I'M CONFUSED. ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?



FOR ME TO KILL RADIA? AFTER ALL, MURDER COMES SO EASY TO YOU.



YOU'RE A PIECE O' FUCKIN' WORK, YOU KNOW THAT? NEWS FLASH-- THOSE COP KILLERS **WEREN'T** ONE OF MY CREWS. CONGRATULATIONS-- YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIRST **REAL VILLAINS** AGAIN.

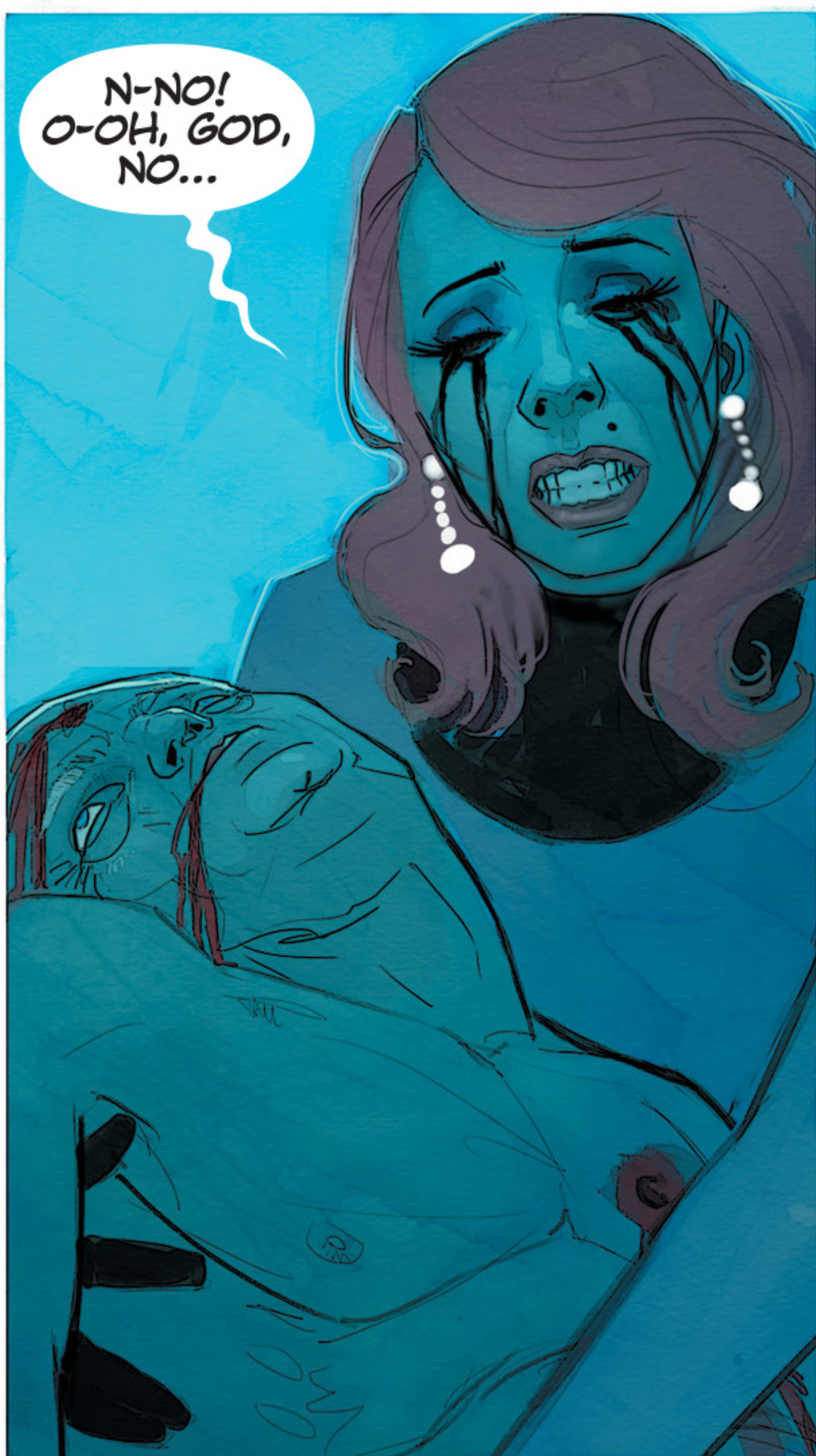
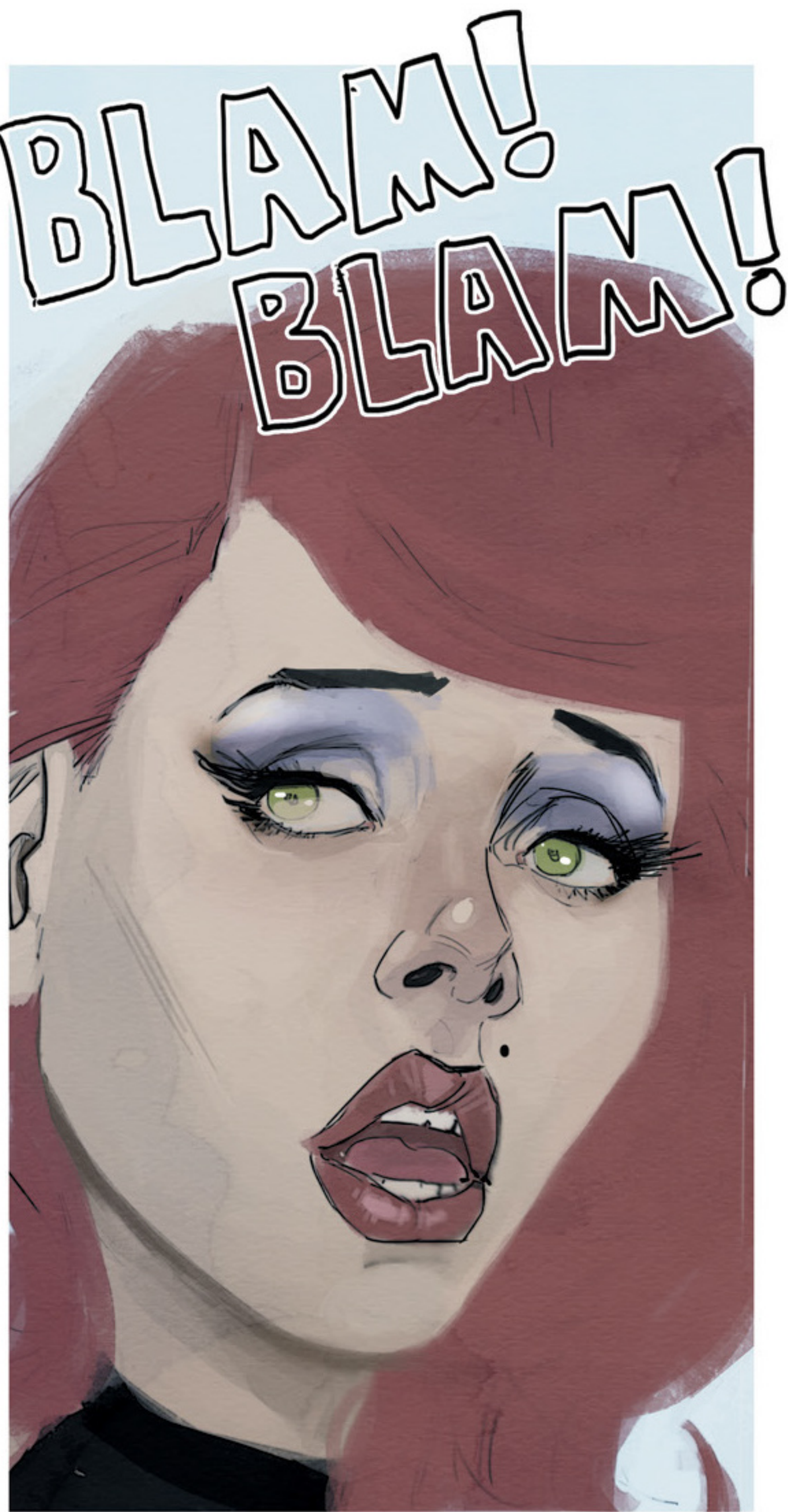
SO, WHY DON'T YOU GET THE FUCK OUTTA HERE WITH YOUR CHEAP INTIMIDATION BULLSHIT.



AT THIS POINT, CAMDEN, DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD COME HERE JUST TO **INTIMIDATE** YOU?



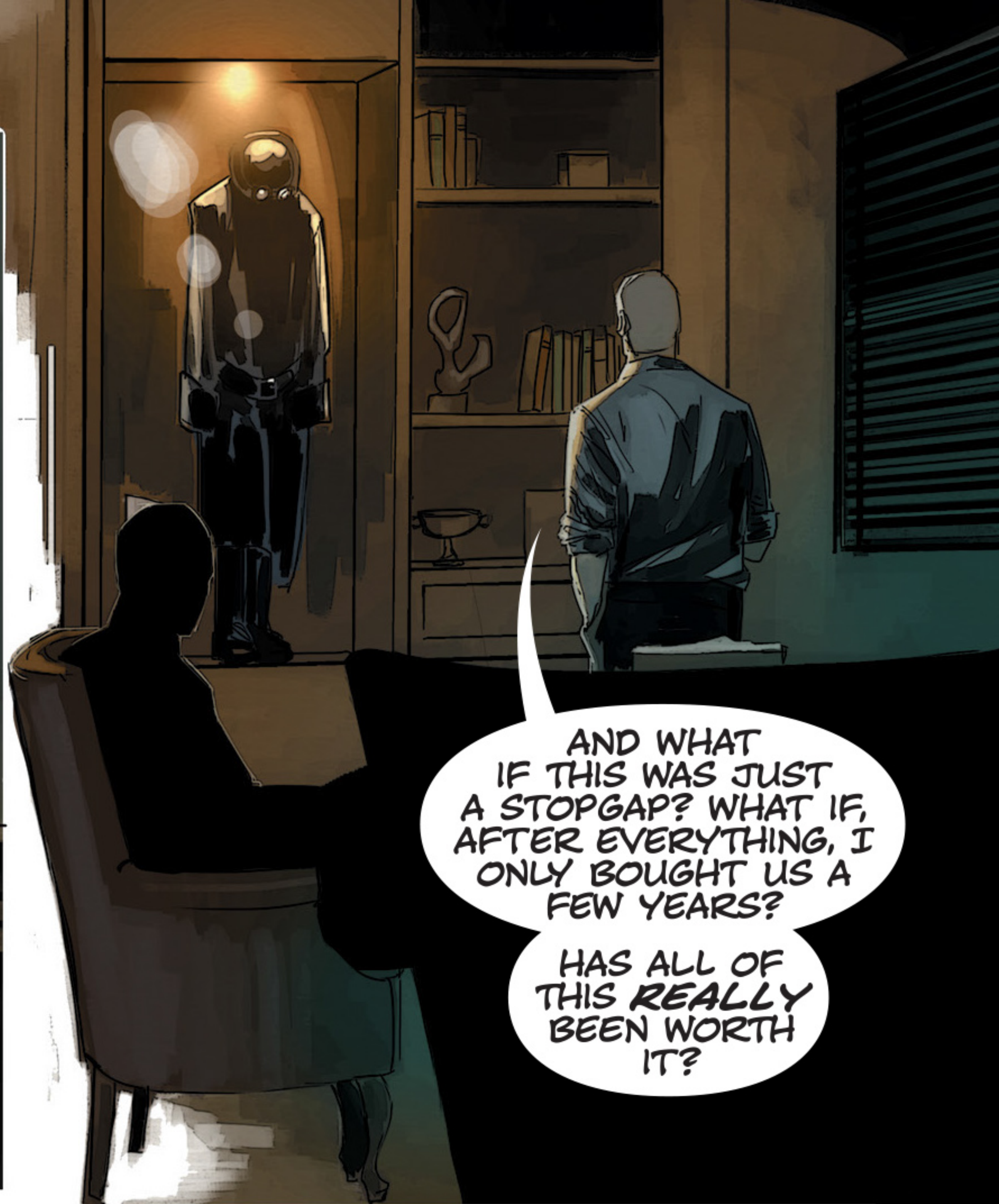




















|               |                |              |        |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| FILE 006-01   |                |              |        |
| 1.            | SERIAL NO.     | 20-1400-0911 | X      |
| 2.            | REGISTRATION   | CLASSIFIED   | XF: 03 |
| 3.            | CLASSIFICATION | W-706-L21    |        |
| 4.            |                |              |        |
| COMMENTS: N/A |                |              |        |
| LOG NO.       |                | 5296482368   |        |
| DEPT.         |                | PATROL       |        |

RESTRICTED

C.O.W.L.

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Karl Peter Samoski  
Date of Birth: 07/22/1926  
Place of Birth:  
Chicago, IL (West Town)  
Height: 5'8  
Hair: Brown  
Weight: 240lbs  
Eyes: Brown

Alias: Eclipse

C.O.W.L. Position: Officer, Patrols

Skills: Anti-kinetics, power disruption

Biography:

Samoski was born in the Chicago neighborhood of West Town where his father, Henryk, and mother, Daria, ran a bakery. At his mother's urging, Samoski was active in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church community, serving as an altar boy in his middle school years.

Though he was too young to join the armed forces when the U.S. entered World War II in late 1941, Samoksi and other men in the neighborhood began working in a Studebaker plant near Municipal Airport (now Midway) in order to help fill the country's labor needs. There they helped assemble Wright Cyclone engines for the B-17 Flying Fortress.

It was during the war years that Samoski began to manifest "anti-kinetic" powers, which gave him the ability to disrupt the flow and transfer of energy. Before he could use his powers in the fight overseas, however, the war came to an end. He moved from job-to-job in the post-war years, looking for a proper outlet for his abilities.

Samoski found his answer in 1949 with the formation of the Chicago Organized Worker's League. He joined the organization and became an Officer in the Patrol Division, a role he's enthusiastically maintained ever since.



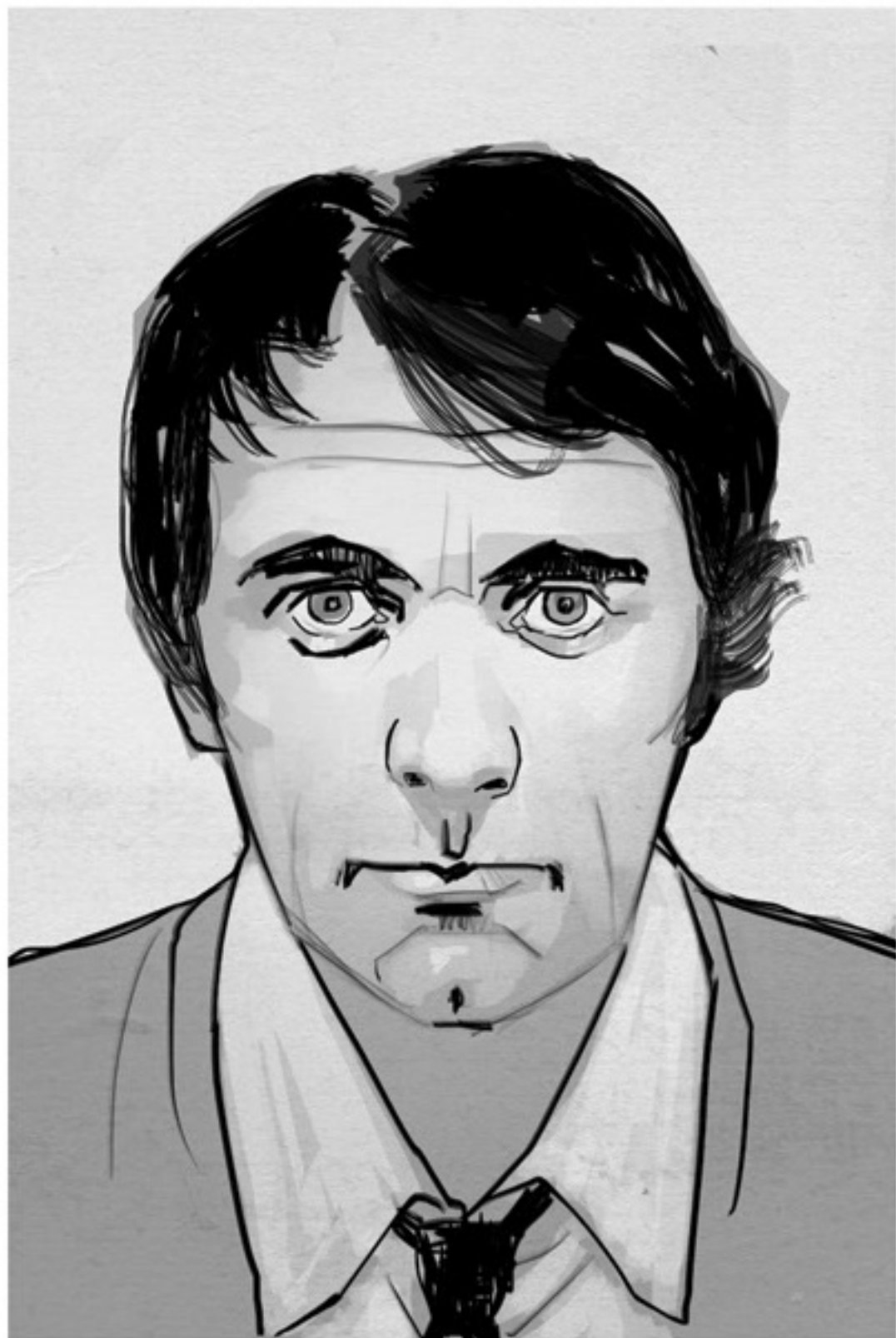


# C.O.W.L.

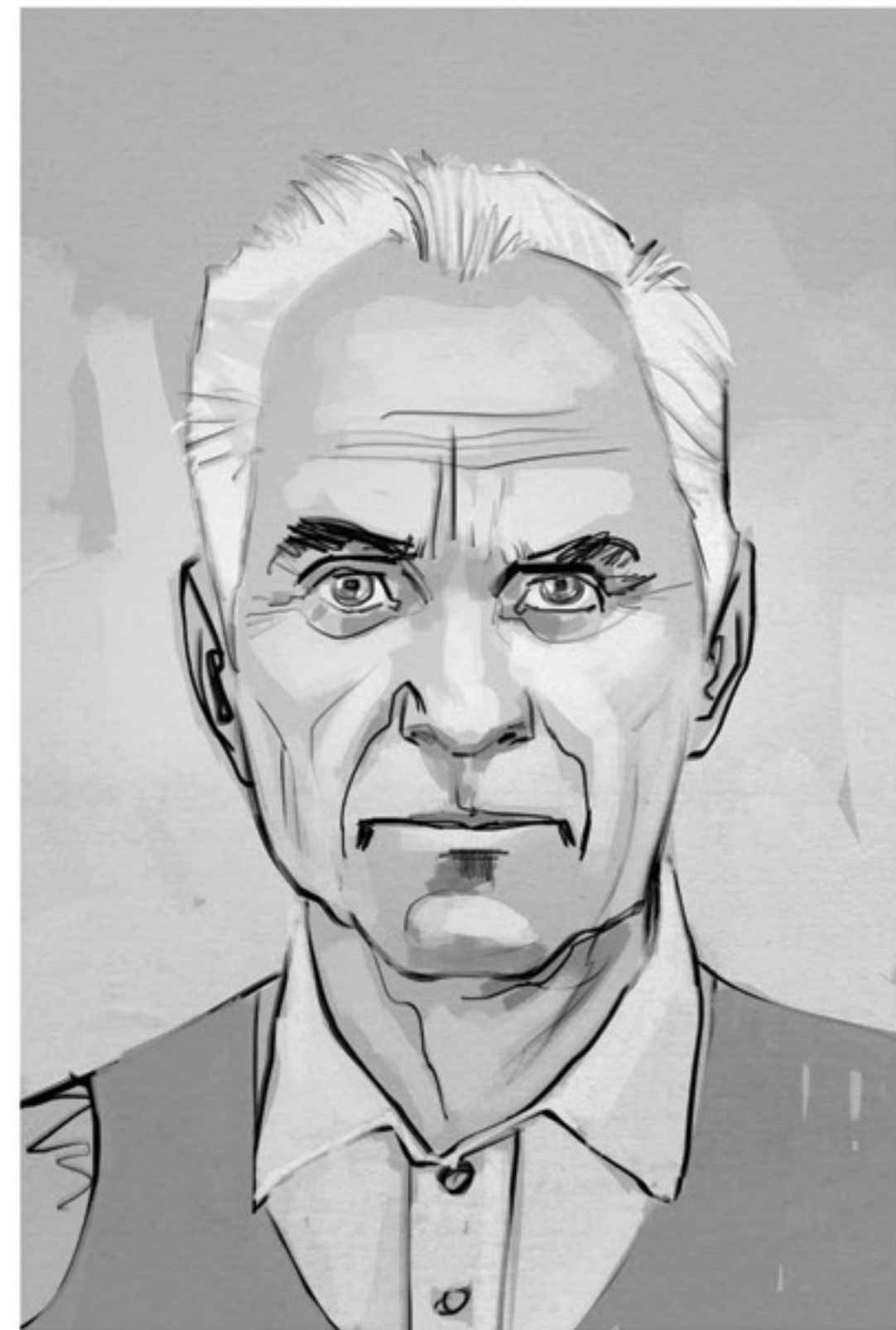
## CRIMINAL DATABASE FILE



# CAMDEN HUGH STONE



Photograph taken 1943



Photograph taken 1962

**Alias:** Little Rock

## DESCRIPTION

**Date of Birth:** 3/23/1903

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, IL (Bridgeport)

**Height:** 5'7

**Weight:** 192

**Hair Color:** Gray/White

**CDBC:** 146-A

**Eyes:** Brown

**Sex:** Male

**Nationality:** American (Irish descent)

**Occupation(s):** Businessman, Night Club Owner

## REMARKS

Replaced father (Liam Stone) as head of Stone criminal family in 1939. Prior to this, he was arrested twice, for disorderly conduct, illegal possession of a firearm, assault, and petty larceny. Spent five years in Cook County Jail (1933-1937). Since taking over the family he has been tried for numerous crimes, including racketeering, illegal gambling, murder. No convictions.

He is suspected of using super-powered individuals in criminal activities. Some of these individuals have separately been arrested, tried, and convicted. However, ties to Stone did not hold up in court.

**Note:** As these individuals are no longer known to openly use these powers, the Stone criminal organization is currently outside the jurisdiction of the Chicago Organized Worker's League.

**Entered CDBC**  
January, 1962

Chief  
Chicago Organized Worker's League  
Chicago, IL 60611





|                |                |              |        |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| FILE 006-26    |                |              |        |
| 1.             | SERIAL NO.     | 01-9526-1625 | -      |
| 2.             | REGISTRATION   | EXEMPT       | AS: 07 |
| 3.             | CLASSIFICATION | B-723-EB3    |        |
| 4.             |                |              |        |
| COMMENTS: NONE |                |              |        |
| LOG NO.        |                | 0163849211   |        |
| DEPT.          |                | N/A          |        |

CLOSED

C.O.W.L.

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Evelyn Marie Hewitt (Harrigan)  
Date of Birth: 12/22/1908  
Place of Birth:  
Chicago, IL (Bucktown)  
Height: 5'5  
Hair: White  
Weight: 143lbs  
Eyes: Blue

Alias: N/A

C.O.W.L. Position: Detective (Retired)

Skills: Expert Strategist

Biography:

Born in the Chicago neighborhood of Bucktown, her mother died in childbirth and her father was killed shortly after in an accident along the Chicago River. Harrigan was raised in foster care.

In 1930, she married James Hewitt, a detective in the Chicago Police Department. Harrigan (now Hewitt) was drawn to her husband's work and even tried to join the police force herself, but was continually denied entry to the force due to "physical inferiority."

During World War II, James joined the Marine Corps and Evelyn worked at Amertorp Torpedo Ordnance Corporation in Forest Lawn. She was widowed in 1944 when James was killed during the Battle of Peleliu.

After the war, Hewitt finally found detective work with the formation of the Chicago Organized Worker's League. She became one of the organization's prominent investigators and trained many personnel in the department's current roster.

Hewitt left C.O.W.L. in 1959 and joined the Chicago Police Department, where she continues to work as a homicide detective.





# DOPPLER



Character designs  
by Rod Reis



# THE BRUTE



Character designs  
by Rod Reis



## PAGE 4

Patrick CRUMPLES the newspapers. The noise is DEAFENING.

SFX: KA-KRUNCH (not sure this is the right sound effect. Any ideas? Maybe just CRUMPLE)

Rod-- I was thinking this would be a fun page to leave to you to design. And... if we do it right, it'll involve a lot of sound effects in the artwork :)

The idea here is that Patrick has audio/sonic powers. He's a bit like Banshee (from the X-MEN). However, instead of screaming sonic blasts... he's able to amplify and redirect sound waves. Meaning, the crumple becomes a weapon. Then, when the man fires the gun... the BLAM sound is a weapon.

So, what's that mean visually? Well, I was thinking it'd be cool if we actually turn the sound effect words INTO weapons. For example-- the CRUMPLE word actually FIRES at the man and woman, like a blast. The man fires his gun... and the BLAM word actually gets redirected at the woman, knocking her off her feet.

The man RUNS... and Patrick uses the KLOP KLOP running sound effects to TRIP the guy.

Bottom line, we want the rest of this page (and the top of page 5) to be vicious... with Patrick laying waste to the store and the man and woman. However... he just roughs them up a bit. He doesn't kill them.





PAGE 18

18.1 Radia rushes into the room, using her telekinesis to LIFT Doppler off the floor.

RADIA  
Get away from him!

18.2 Alderman Hayes.

ALDERMAN HAYES  
Oh thank **God!**

18.3 Doppler amplifies the "d" in God.

18.4 and uses it to knock Radia off her feet.

RADIA  
UNNH!

18.5 Outside, ANOTHER TRAIN goes by.

SFX: KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK

18.6 Doppler takes the sound and it builds over his head... growing in strength...

18.7 ...until all the windows BLOW OUT!

SFX: KACHUNKKKK





## PAGE 3

3.1 The two men look around. Confused.

WRAITH (TAILESS. SCARY)  
I know where you were.

ROBBER 1 (SMALL)  
The hell...?

3.2 Robber 2 is scared. He's trying to get Robber 1 to keep walking with him. But Robber 1 is defiant.

ROBBER 2  
Come on. This... Is fucking weird.

ROBBER 1  
No. Fuck that. Nobody's gonna scare us off.

3.3 Robber 1 and Robber 2. Robber 1 is defiant. Behind them, a BLACK SHAPE drops down. This should be fucking terrifying. Like a horror film.

ROBBER 1  
You hear me, you fuck?! You don't  
freak me--

3.4-3.5 The robbers TURN as the shape SNAPS a kick. It SLAMS into Robber 1's chest. Right in the solar plexus. Doubles him over.

3.6 Robber 1 falls to the ground. Cringing in pain.





From Executive Producer  
Bear McCreary



# THE C.O.W.L. SESSIONS

(Original  
Soundtrack for  
the Comic)

Music by Chicago Jazz Composer

## Joe Clark

Featuring Raya Yarbrough

Available Now on iTunes and Amazon!

SPARKS  
& SHADOWS







Praise for *C.O.W.L.*...

“Best new take on superheroes in forever. Kyle Higgins and Alec Siegel are at the top of their game. And the art from Rod Reis is damn gorgeous. I'm in.”

—**Jason Aaron** (*SOUTHERN BASTARDS*)

“Heady fun.”

—**WASHINGTON POST/COMIC RIFFS**

“A down and dirty *MAD MEN* meets *HEROES* in '60s Chicago. Labor unions and corrupt politicians lay the groundwork that super-powered agents fly over. On the artwork is Rod Reis, an artist whose... work is dynamic and graphic, with a timeless atmosphere.”

—**ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY**

“Gorgeous stuff. Keep an eye out for this one.”

—**Kelly Sue DeConnick**  
(*PRETTY DEADLY*)

## WELCOME TO THE CHICAGO ORGANIZED WORKERS LEAGUE. THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPERHERO LABOR UNION.

After World War II, GEOFFREY WARNER (THE GREY RAVEN), REGINALD DAVIS (BLAZE), and PAUL BRADDOCK (SPARROW) spearheaded a campaign to bring heroes together in Chicago, striking a contract with the city and giving birth to the first organization of its kind.

Now, thirteen years later, the villains are gone, the heroes are on strike, and C.O.W.L. investigator JOHN PIERCE is dead. But, while the heroes' days appear to be numbered, Warner is not about to let his organization die without a fight... even if that means risking everything it stands for.

Join **Kyle Higgins** (*NIGHTWING*, *BATMAN BEYOND*), **Alec Siegel** (*CAPTAIN AMERICA*, *AVENGERS*), and **Rod Reis** (*JUSTICE LEAGUE*) in the second volume of their critically-acclaimed series that explores the cost of doing things for the “Greater Good.”

Collects C.O.W.L. #7–11



IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED M / MATURE

RATED M / MATURE  
CRIME FICTION / SUPERHERO



# D.R. & QUINCH

